SUNDAY
April 26, 2026

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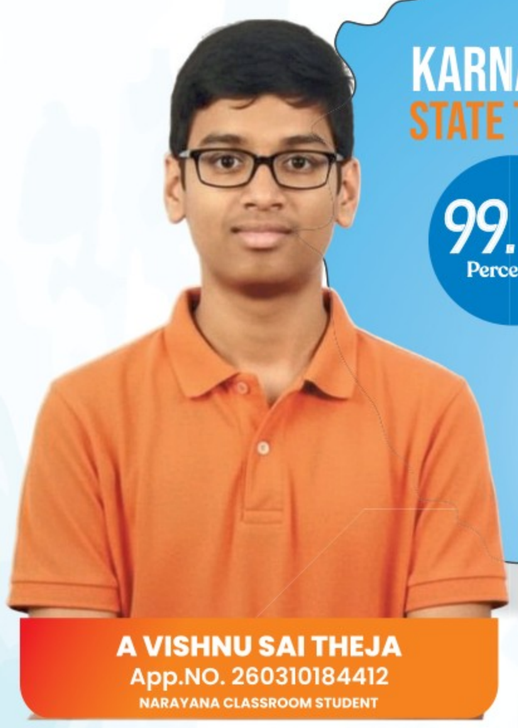

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STRATEGIC AUTONOMY

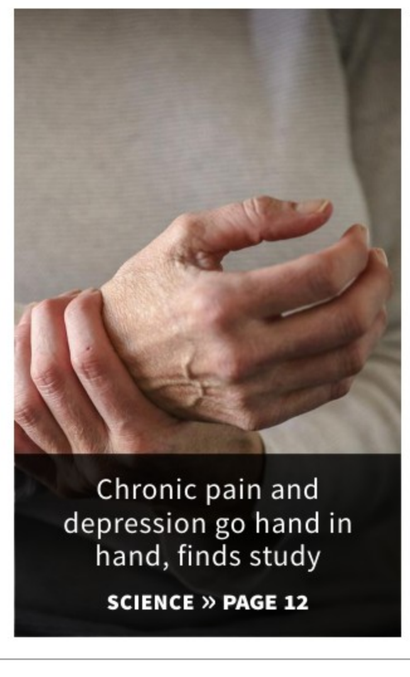
India faces major test on Chabahar

With U.S. sanctions waiver ending April 26, India may have to choose between exiting the 23-year-old project or facing sanctions

NEWS» PAGE 8

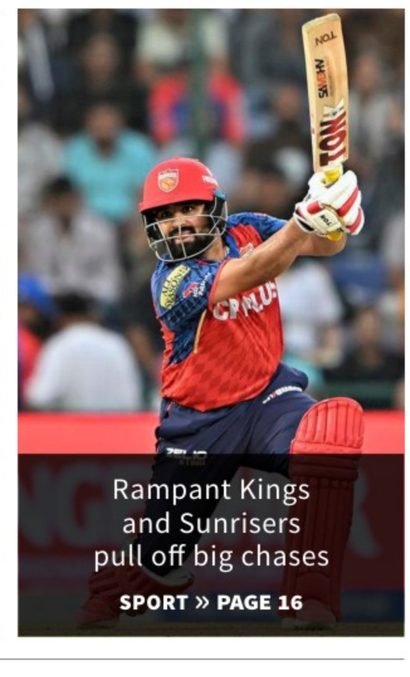
Kavitha launches Telangana Rashtra Sena

SOUTH » PAGE 7



Chronic pain and depression go hand in hand, finds study

SCIENCE » PAGE 12



Rampant Kings and Sunrisers pull off big chases

SPORT » PAGE 16

NEARBY

Facility to build high-speed rail inaugurated

BENGALURU
Aditya, a specialised complex dedicated to the manufacturing of high-speed rail, was inaugurated by Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting, and Electronics & Information Technology, on on Saturday. » PAGE 6

₹45 cr. allocated to tackle water scarcity: Priyank

BENGALURU
The State government has allocated ₹45 crore to districts to tackle emergency water scarcity in rural areas during the peak summer months, Minister for Rural Development & Panchayat Raj and IT/BT Priyank Kharge said on Saturday. » PAGE 6

CLASSIFIEDS » PAGE 4
MAGAZINE » 8 PAGES

U.S. envoys not to travel to Pakistan, says Trump

The decision comes after Iran's Foreign Minister wraps up a visit to Islamabad, meeting Pakistan's leadership, thanking them for their efforts; Pak. stresses importance of dialogue and diplomacy

Agence France-Presse
ISLAMABAD/TEHRAN

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Saturday he had ordered his envoys not to travel to Pakistan to continue talks with Iranian officials on ending the war.

"I just cancelled the trip of my representatives going to Islamabad, Pakistan, to meet with the Iranians. Too much time wasted on travelling, too much work! Besides, there is tremendous infighting and confusion within their "leadership." Also, we have all the cards, they have none! If they want to talk, all they have to do is call!", Mr. Trump wrote on Truth Social.

The decision came as Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi wrapped up a visit to Islamabad.

Peace mission: Iran Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi meeting Pakistan Army Chief Asim Munir in Islamabad on Saturday. AP

'Principled positions'

Mr. Araghchi met Field Marshal Asim Munir, Pakistan's Army Chief and a key figure in the mediation effort, as well as Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar.

Mr. Araghchi, according to an Iranian statement, thanked Pakistan for its efforts but "explained our country's principled positions regarding the latest developments related to the ceasefire and the complete end of the imposed war against Iran".

Mr. Dar posted on social media that the meeting with the Iranian delegation lasted around two hours and Pakistan emphasised "the importance of dialogue and diplomacy".

Iranian state media later reported that Mr. Araghchi had left Islamabad. It said Islamabad would serve as a bridge to "convey" Iranian proposals.

An Iranian spokesman said Mr. Araghchi would travel to Oman and Russia to discuss efforts to end the war, which was launched against Iran by Israel and the U.S. on February 28. Iran's military, meanwhile, remained defiant.

In a statement carried by state media, the military's central command said that if "the invading U.S. military continues blockading, banditry, and piracy in the region, they should be certain that they will face a response from Iran's powerful armed forces".

Since the last round of talks, efforts to bring the two sides back to the table have hit an impasse, with Iran refusing to participate as long as a U.S. naval blockade remains in place. Iran has imposed a de facto blockade of its own on the Strait of Hormuz, allowing only a trickle of ships to pass through the waterway, throwing global energy markets into turmoil.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

March to Manipur CM's house foiled; 22 injured

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

More than 20 people were injured after protesters attempting to march to the official residence of Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh clashed with security personnel on Saturday.

The protesters were seeking the arrest of those involved in the April 7 bomb attack that killed two children in Bishnupur district's Tronglaobi.

The protesters took out processions from four directions in a bid to converge at the Chief Minister's bungalow in the Babupara area of the State's capital, Imphal. The security personnel thwarted their march in the Khurai Lamlong area of Imphal East district, about two km from the Chief Minister's residence.

The security personnel dispersed hundreds of protesters, mobilised by the Imphal Valley-based Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity (COCOMI), by firing tear gas shells when they tried to break through the security barricades. Eyewitnesses said at least 22 people, injured in the clash, were admitted to a hospital.

Rapid response: Security forces dispersing protesters during a COCOMI rally in Imphal on Saturday. ANI

The protest march was the outcome of the April 25 deadline set by COCOMI, a conglomerate of Meitei civil society organisations, for the State government to arrest all those involved in the April 7 bomb attack. COCOMI had earlier announced the boycott of the ruling BJP.

The protesters, however, managed to hold a rally near the iconic Kangla Fort, where the COCOMI leaders addressed the people. Later, the authorities allowed some leaders of the organisation to meet the Chief Minister and submit a memorandum to him.

The organisation asked the State government if it would impress upon the Centre to stop the ongoing "proxy war" and ensure justice in the recent violent incidents. It also demanded a judicial probe into the incident of firing by the personnel of a central force, which led to the death of three protesters in Bishnupur. The killing of the two children, including an infant, had triggered the protest.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

AAP to seek disqualification of MPs who defected to BJP

Jaideep Deo Bhanj
NEW DELHI

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Saturday said it would seek the disqualification of its seven Rajya Sabha members who broke away from the party, calling the "move unconstitutional and illegal".

Addressing a press conference, senior AAP leader and Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Singh said he would write to the Rajya Sabha Chairman, citing the Tenth Schedule and demanding termination of their membership, arguing that even a two-thirds split holds no legal validity under the anti-defection law.

Sanjay Singh

"The anti-defection law clearly states that no form of split is permissible in the Assembly, Rajya Sabha, or the Lok Sabha. It has no legal recognition, and this has also been clearly established in the Shiv Sena case," he said.

On Friday, Raghav Chadha, MP, said that more than two-thirds of the AAP MPs had quit the party and would merge with the BJP by exercising the provisions of the Constitution. The AAP earlier had a strength of 10 MPs in the Rajya Sabha, of which three remain now.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8
'FAULT LINES IN AAP' » PAGE 9

Having a good time

People having a whale of a time at a swimming pool at Halasuru in Bengaluru on Saturday. With temperatures rising, swimming pools in the city are witnessing large crowds. ALLEN EGENUSE J

HC accepts Ranveer's apology

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bringing a closure to the controversy surrounding actor Ranveer Singh's act of "mocking" the *daiva* tradition depicted in the Kannada film *Kantara Chapter-1*, the High Court of Karnataka on Saturday accepted his voluntary undertaking to offer prayers at the Chamundeshwari temple in Mysuru and submit a written apology.

FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 6

Israel flies out 240 from Mizoram amid war scare

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

The Government of India's advisory about the security situation in Israel, amid the ongoing war in West Asia, came into focus on Thursday when Israel flew around 240 individuals from Mizoram to Tel Aviv as part of its 'Operation Wings of Dawn'.

Though members of the Bnei Menashe community have been taken to Israel on earlier occasions, this is the first time that such a large number of them are being flown against the backdrop of the regional war in West Asia. Operation Wings of Dawn, sanctioned by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, aims to fly members of the Bnei Menashe community from Northeast India to Israel.

Fresh start: A member of the Bnei Menashe community reacts upon arrival at Ben Gurion Airport near Tel Aviv on April 23. AFP

The Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI) said Thursday's flight from New Delhi carried the first of three batches of individuals from the Bnei Menashe community, which is generally found in Churachandpur of Manipur and in areas along the India-Myanmar border in Mizoram.

In a statement, JAFI said, "The flight that landed today included dozens of young families, who will initially move into absorption centres in Nof HaGalil, where they will also reunite with relatives who made *'aliyah'* in previous years." The total number of such individuals is expected to be around 600, it added.

In response to *The Hindu's* questions, an official maintained that India did not provide any help to facilitate the flight and said, "India's responsibility is to ensure that our citizens are not human-trafficked while travelling abroad and that apart, we cannot stop anyone from undertaking legal migration."

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

BWSSB to install RWH system and recover cost in instalments

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a first, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has announced that it would only henceforth install rain water harvesting (RWH) systems in buildings, to promote water conservation in the city, ahead of a weak monsoon.

RWH mandatory

The RWH is mandatory in all new buildings on plots of 30X40 ft and above. Buildings that fail to comply with the norm have to pay a fine, along with their monthly bills.

Data shows there are 49,431 such buildings in the city that pay an average of ₹4.56 crore in penalty every month.

Alternative to fine

"Instead of paying fines every month, interested consumers can get the RWH systems installed from the BWSSB. It has been decided to recover the installation cost in phases, equivalent to the monthly penalty amount currently paid by customers. Over time, this will not only save customers from the hassle of paying penalties but also significantly reduce their monthly water bills," said V. Ram Prasath Manohar, chairman, BWSSB.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 7

Glow in the dawn: Residents start their day with prayer at a designated hall lit by castor oil lamps.

Working hands: Villagers manually draw water from a well to meet their daily needs.

Slice and dice: Men cutting vegetables to prepare lunch at a community kitchen in the village.

Simple living: Villagers prepare meals in a traditional kitchen at Kurma Gramam in Srikakulam of Andhra Pradesh, reflecting the indigenous style of rural housing and food production.

Back to the roots

Far from the influence of urban life, Kurma Gramam in Andhra Pradesh embraces a simple way of living, guided by age-old practices and traditions aimed at sustainability

V. Raju
peddiraju.vudimudi
@thehindu.co.in

Kurma Gramam, a serene village in Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh, offers a compelling portrait of a self-sustained and tradition-oriented way of life.

Far from the influence of urban life, the village embraces a simple way of living, guided by age-old practices and traditions aimed at sustainability.

Daily life in the village follows a structured and mindful routine. The day begins in the early hours with prayers in a dedicated hall illuminated by the gentle glow of castor oil lamps, creating a peaceful and spiritual atmosphere. This is followed by a group yoga practice, where villagers, including children, join to improve physical well-being and mental discipline. Education is imparted through a traditional *gurukulam*, where children are taught Vedic texts, scriptures, and languages such as Sanskrit and Telugu, ensuring the preservation of ancient knowledge and values.

A striking feature of the village is its strong sense of self-reliance. Houses are constructed by the residents themselves using natural materials such as mud, clay, and wood. Kitchens are equipped with traditional firewood stoves for cooking, while garments are woven locally on handlooms rather than sourced from outside. Water is manually drawn from wells, and everyday tasks are carried out with a deep connection to nature.

Community living lies at the heart of Kurma Gramam. Collective food preparation in social kitchens and the practice of serving meals to visitors highlight the village's spirit of cooperation and hospitality. The village attracts nearly 400 visitors every weekend, drawn by its unique lifestyle. The village stands as a model of simplicity, discipline, and cultural continuity. Agriculture forms the backbone of the community, with residents cultivating their own crops and relying largely on locally available resources for sustenance. As evening sets in, devotional rituals, music, and prayer bring the community together once again.

(Text by Harish Gilai)

The hearth that feeds: Wood-fired stoves are used for cooking in the self-sustained village.

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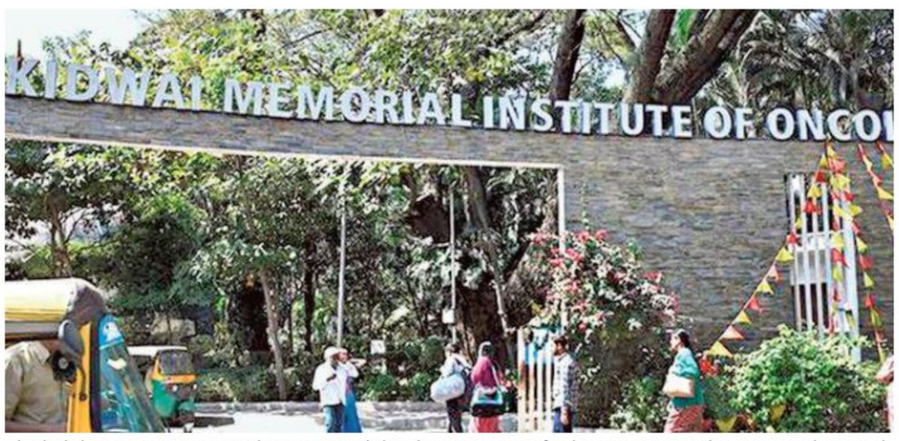
Kidwai's home-based palliative care services receive positive response

The services now cover Bengaluru within a radius of 40 km from the institute; plan for expansion is under way; 112 patients have availed themselves of the facility since its launch on March 3

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU



The helpline, 'Neravina Kare' (90084 41708), has been set up to facilitate access to the service, along with teleconsultation based on urgency. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

Home-based palliative care services introduced by the State-run Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology (KMIO) have received a positive response, with 112 patients availing the facility since its launch on March 3.

The initiative, aimed at supporting terminally ill cancer patients unable to travel for follow-up care, is being implemented under a programme that combines home visits with telemedicine support.

M.K. Yadhuraj, who heads the Department of Pain and Palliative Medicine at Kidwai, told *The Hindu* that the service currently covers Bengaluru within a radius of about 40 km from the institute and is delivered through two dedicated teams conducting daily home visits. Each team comprises a palliative care physician, nurse, social worker, physiotherapist and support staff, who provide comprehensive care at patients' doorsteps, he said.

All required medicines, drugs and consumables are supplied free of cost by the institute and delivered directly to patients during home visits. Following the visits, patients are monitored through telemedicine consultations, with subsequent home visits scheduled based on clinical need. In addition to routine consultation and symptom management, the teams are also performing procedures that were earlier largely limited to hospital settings, the doctor said.

Telemedicine support

The service, supported under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funding, is intended for patients who have already undergone treatment at Kidwai but find it difficult to return for follow-up care. A helpline, 'Neravina Kare' (90084 41708), has been set up to facilitate access to the service, along with teleconsultation based on urgency. Patients from across the State can call this number for telemedicine support. For home-based palliative care, available only in Bengaluru as of now, patients can call 91875 90629 and register.

Dr. Yadhuraj said more than 250 patients have registered so far since March 3, reflecting the growing demand.

The institute, which sees between 2,500 and 3,000 outpatients daily and admits 650 to 750 inpatients, registers around 23,000 new cancer cases every year, while over 3.7 lakh patients visit for follow-up treatment.

Nearly 20% of these patients face difficulty in travelling to the hospital, underscoring the need for such home-based care services. Kidwai director (additional charge) Naveen T. said the initiative has helped improve quality of life for patients by managing pain and symptoms in a familiar environment, while also reducing the physical and emotional strain associated with repeated hospital visits. The programme is expected to ease the burden on both patients' families and hospital infrastructure, he said.

Plans are under way to expand the service across Greater Bengaluru area by increasing the number of teams to four in the next phase. The institute is also working on developing a dedicated mobile application to streamline access to home-based palliative care services.

'Bengaluru's Soul', sculpture by Spanish artist Jaume Plensa, unveiled at KIA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

'Bengaluru's Soul', a sculpture by Spanish artist Jaume Plensa, was unveiled today at the Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru.

The sculpture, which has been facilitated by Biocon Foundation in collaboration with KIA, has been installed at the Arrival Forecourt of Terminal 2.

The installation was unveiled by H.E. Juan Antonio March Pujol, Ambassador of Spain to India, in the presence of Priyank Kharge, Minister for Rural Development, Panchayat Raj, and Information Technology & Biotechnology, with Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Chairperson, Biocon Group, and Hari Marar, Managing Director & CEO, Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), in attendance, alongside artist Jaume Plensa.

The sculpture, which reflects the city's diversity, creativity, and global outlook, installed at the Arrival Forecourt of Terminal 2 of KIA in Bengaluru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Installed in painted stainless steel and measuring 500 x 319 x 375 cm, the sculpture reflects the city's diversity, creativity, and global outlook, said a statement from the foundation. Ms. Mazumdar-Shaw said the installation "captures the spirit of a city where ideas, cultures, and innovation converge". Public art humanises civic spaces and fosters a shared sense of identity, she said.

"At the Biocon Foundation, we believe building resilient cities requires not just infrastructure, but investment in culture and creativity."

Mr. Marar remarked that Terminal 2 is envisioned as a cultural gateway, where infrastructure and artistic expression come together seamlessly and 'Bengaluru's Soul' reflects this vision.

"As millions pass through the BLR Airport, our Art Programme creates memorable first and last impressions, reinforcing Bengaluru's identity," he added.

No human cases of H5N1 detected after 10 days of intensive surveillance

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

No human cases of the highly pathogenic avian influenza A (H5N1) have been detected after a 10-day intensive surveillance and containment operation carried out by the State Health Department, following the outbreak at the State Poultry Rearing Training Centre at Mathkuru village in Hesaraghatta near Bengaluru on April 14.

The outbreak was confirmed based on a laboratory testing at the National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (NIHSAD), Bhopal, prompting immediate deployment of State and district Rapid Response Teams, along with teams from Hesaraghatta and Sonnenahalli Primary Health Centres.

Authorities demarcated an infected zone within a 0 to 3 km radius and a surveillance zone of 3 to 10 km, and initiated containment measures as per established biosecurity protocols. All birds at the affected facility were culled, and eggs and contaminated feed were safely disposed of.

Officials said surveillance was carried out across 22 villages within a 10 km radius, covering a population of 28,172. Multiple rounds of field visits and sanitation measures were undertaken during the 10-day period in accordance with the protocol. On the human health front, nasopharyngeal samples collected from quarantined staff on the fifth day and tested at the National Institute of Virology were found negative for H5N1. Fresh samples were collected on the 10th day, and results are awaited.

Health authorities have directed all healthcare facilities in Bengaluru to continue surveillance for Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) and Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI) cases

The Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services issued a sanitisation certificate on April 21. As a precautionary measure, poultry activity at the facility would remain suspended for 90 days.

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In tune with nature: Boys in traditional attire pass a signboard urging visitors not to dump plastic waste, highlighting the village's commitment to an eco-friendly way of life.

Learning curve: Children on their way to school in the village.

Daily poses: Practising yoga is part of the morning routine for children and adults alike in the village.

Life lessons: Srikanth, formerly an IT employee, instructs children at a *gurukulam* where Vedic scripture and languages are taught.

Do it yourself: A boy watches a man engaged in carpentry in the village where residents usually build their own homes.

Co-living space: A boy pets a cow raised in the village. The cow shelter in the village is key to its self-sustainability.

Generations unite: A man and a young boy engaged in conversation in the village as the sun sets behind them.

BMRCL non-fare revenue sees sharp rise from ₹54 cr. to ₹145 cr.

It began generating revenue in 2012-13, but the scale and diversity of income streams have expanded in recent years

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

In a significant boost to its financial diversification strategy, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has recorded a sharp rise in non-fare box revenue (NFBR), which surged from ₹54 crore in 2024-25 to ₹145 crore in 2025-26, marking an increase of nearly 168%.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, a senior BMRCL official attributed the growth to sustained efforts in monetising metro assets. "We have been steadily expanding our non-fare revenue avenues over the years. The recent increase reflects better utilisation of station spaces, trains, and associated infrastructure for commercial purposes," the official said.

The BMRCL began generating non-fare revenue as early as 2012-13, but the scale and diversity of income streams have expanded significantly in recent years. The corporation's NFBR portfolio now spans multiple segments, including retail kiosks and outlets within stations, advertisements inside and outside metro premises, train branding, parking facilities, and newer initiatives such as EV charging and battery swapping stations. Public space initiatives such as the Rangoli Metro Art Centre and Bengaluru Santhe have also contributed to footfall and indirect revenue generation. "In addition, integrated property development and innovative financing schemes have helped the corporation tap into urban real estate potential along metro corridors," the official said.

The non-fare box revenue portfolio now spans multiple segments, including retail kiosks and outlets within stations, advertisements inside and outside metro premises, train branding, etc. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Key facts

Non-fare box revenue started 2012-13

Revenue

2024-25	2025-26	Increase
₹54 crore	₹145 crore	168%

Ad revenue share: 13%-14% of fare box revenue

Main revenue streams
- Advertisements (stations & trains)
- Retail kiosks and outlets
- Station branding & naming rights
- Parking facilities
- EV charging & battery swapping
- Property development

Advertising network
- 68 stations covered
- 57 trains with internal ads
- 63 stations with indoor ads
- 20 trains with full wraps

Source: BMRCL

Advertisement revenue continues to be a key component of the BMRCL's non-fare income. Officials estimate that it contributes about 13%-14% of the total fare box revenue.

Advertising formats include station panels, digital displays, and full-train wraps, both internal and external.

Currently, advertising infrastructure spans a large part of the operational network. According to the details shared by the BMRCL, on the Purple Line, 37 stations and 33 trains are used for interior advertisements, with 10 trains featuring full exterior wraps. On the Green Line, 31 stations and 24 trains are utilised for internal advertising, alongside 10 wrapped trains. Overall, 68 stations and 57 trains are covered under interior advertising, while 20 trains carry full-body wraps. Indoor advertising is present in 63 stations.

A major milestone in this segment came in June 2025, when the BMRCL introduced full-body advertisement wraps on trains for the first time. The initiative, rolled out on both Purple and Green lines, involved two seven-year agreements with private advertising firms valued at ₹1.26 crore and ₹81.49 lakh, respectively.

FFC report

The push towards non-fare revenue also aligns with recommendations made by the Fare Fixation Committee (FFC).

In its 2025 report, the FFC highlighted the need for metro operators to strengthen non-ticket revenue streams to ensure financial sustainability.

The FFC report highlighted that while the BMRCL's fare box collection in 2023-24 stood at ₹573.91 crore, its property-related income was only ₹50.05 crore, just 8.72% of fare revenue.

Citizens can now download e-Khata online instead of visiting civic offices

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The GBA has urged property owners to download their e-Khata at the earliest

To simplify property services, the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has enabled citizens to download their e-Khata online using the SAS Property Tax ID, eliminating the need to visit civic offices.

The initiative covers all five Bengaluru city corporations. Officials said that the move is expected to make around 13 lakh e-Khatas readily accessible to property owners, cutting down delays and procedural hurdles.

Citizens can access the service through https://BBMPeAasthi.karnataka-.gov.in portal, log in using their mobile number and OTP, and download their e-Khata instantly by entering their SAS application number. The system also sends a download link via SMS or WhatsApp to the registered mobile number, according to a release.

The GBA has urged residents to make full use of the digital platform. "This initiative is aimed at removing red tape and ensuring citizens can access their property records quickly and transparently. We strongly advise people not to approach middlemen or visit offices, but to use the online system," officials said.

Officials emphasised that the e-Khata would be issued on an "as-is-where-is" basis, based on existing records. Property owners will need to update details such as Aadhaar e-KYC, registered sale deed, GPS-based property information, and Bescom ID to make the document fully compliant for transactions.

The GBA has urged all property owners to download their e-Khata at the earliest and benefit from the streamlined, 24x7 digital service.

Home turf

Fandom: The Bengaluru Football Club (BFC) unveiling a huge banner during the Indian Super League football match between BFC and Mumbai FC, at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru on Saturday. K. MURALI KUMAR

24th edition of *The Hindu* EducationPlus Career Counselling begins

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The 24th edition of *The Hindu* EducationPlus Career Counselling began on Saturday, with the maiden event in Davangere.

It will cover eight other locations across eight cities in Karnataka in the days to come.

Organised by *The Hindu*, this landmark event continues its legacy of guiding students and parents in making well-informed academic and career decisions.

Designed as a one-stop platform for academic and career counselling, the event brings together renowned educationists, career experts, and top institutions to provide personalised guidance on UPSC exam preparation and CET and NEET counselling, conducted by officials from the Karnataka Examinations Authority.

The Hindu Education Plus - 24th Year Career Counselling 2026

Region	Date	Venue	Address
Vijayapura	May 2, 2026 Saturday	BLDE Engg. campus	BLDEA's V.P. Dr. P.G. Halakatti, College of Engineering and Technology, Ashram Road, Adarsh Nagar, Vijayapura - 586101
Tumakuru	May 3, 2026 Sunday	Birla Auditorium	Birla Auditorium, Siddaganga Institute of Technology, B.H. Road, Tumakuru - 572103
Bidar	May 9, 2026 Saturday	Shaheen Parvaaz Hall	Shaheen Parvaaz Hall, Sapna Landmark, Opposite Vishal Functional Hall, Airport Road, Bidar
Mangaluru	May 9, 2026 Saturday	Sri Sudeendra Auditorium	Canara High School Main Campus, Kodiabail, Mangalore - 575003
Bengaluru	May 9, 2026 Saturday	SJRC Auditorium	Sri Jagadguru Renukacharya College of Science, Arts and Commerce, # 9, Race Course Road, Ananda Rao Circle, Bengaluru - 560 009
Kalaburagi	May 16, 2026 Saturday	Poojya Doddappa Appa Sabha Mantapa	Poojya Doddappa Appa Sabha Mantapa, Sharnbasva University, Vidya Nagar, Kalaburagi - 585103
Hubballi	May 16, 2026 Saturday	KLE Society's Bio Technology Auditorium	KLE Society's Bio Technology Auditorium, BVB College of Engineering & Technology Campus, Vidyanagar, Hubballi - 580031
Mysuru	May 16, 2026 Saturday	Sahukar Chennaiah Auditorium	Vidyavardhaka College of Engineering, P.B. No. 206, Gokulam, 3rd Stage, Mysuru - 570002

Designed as a one-stop platform for academic and career counselling, the event brings together renowned educationists, career experts, and top institutions to provide personalised guidance on UPSC exam preparation and CET and NEET counselling, conducted by officials from the Karnataka Examinations Authority.

There is guidance provided on career opportunities in diverse fields including Arts, Science, Commerce, Law, Management, Engineering, Medicine, CA and Cost Management, Fashion Designing, Animation, Performing Arts, Journalism, Architecture, and more.

Whether students are exploring conventional paths or emerging career trends, this forum will offer the clarity, direction, and expert advice they need.

Event schedule

Registration is from 8.30 a.m. to 9.30 a.m.

The programme is from 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Entry is free and open to all students and parents.

Contact 9448160126 / 944887181/ 9731400992 for more information or check Link: https://newsth.live/CET2026ED

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Six gold medals to be awarded at BASE University convocation tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Five of the six gold medallists are female students

This year, a total of six students have won six gold medals in five-year integrated MSc in Economics and two-year MSc in Financial Economics from Dr. B.R. Ambedkar School of Economics (BASE) University in Bengaluru.

Five of the six gold medallists are female students.

Meghana B. Prasheed, Paarvathi J., Gauri Agarwal, Divya U., Neha M. and Priyanshu Shekhar will be awarded gold medals at the second annual convocation of the University on April 27.

In all, the university will be presenting six gold medals, 17 rank certificates and 171 degree certificates, for the academic years 2023-24 and 2024-25.

Bhalchandra Laxman Mungekar, distinguished economist and former member of Planning Commission of India and former Member of Rajya Sabha, will deliver the convocation address.

"Despite being a new university, due to our curriculum, most of our students, who are receiving degrees in the convocation, are already well placed and some have gone for higher studies in leading universities abroad," Vishwanatha, Vice-Chancellor, BASE University, said.

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Data centres must coexist with frugal AI in India, say experts

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

While data centres are imperative, in countries like India, they should coexist with frugal AI, suggested panellists who were speaking at the Frugal Innovation Forum, organised by The French Institute in India (IFI), in collaboration with the Alliance Française de Bangalore and Science Gallery Bengaluru.

"In 2023, when I heard about ChatGPT for the first time, I looked into it and thought about what was needed for a Large Language Model. It is not just software. It has all this hardware infrastructure behind it. You need servers, data centres... these data centres need specialist AI chips, water for cooling, electricity; that is just the supply side of the value chain," said Serish Gandikota, co-founder & co-director, Frugal AI Hub and Visiting Fellow, Cambridge Judge Business School.

He pointed out that while the U.S. or China do not have a resource crunch, that is not the case with India or other countries. "India does need to have hyper-scale data centres, it needs to do frontier tech. But in India hyper-scale data centres and frontier technology need to co-exist with frugal AI. We need an AI stack, but we need to figure out where we need to do things more frugally," Mr. Gandikota said.

The Frugal AI, unlike the traditional resourse-intensive AI, takes a more sustainable, efficient and affordable approach by using minimal data and low energy to achieve certain tasks, thereby minimising the ecological impact.

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Hindu Nadar, 32, 165cms, very Fair, Doctor, Cardiology Fellowship. Hailing from highly affluent family. Currently working as a Cardiologist. Instructor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School. Lives in US. Seeking an upstanding, well qualified, Professional Groom, preferably a Doctor.
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vsajsr@gmail.com

HINDI

CA,CFE AGARWAL 26/158cm consultant at MNC(WFH) Fair & Beautiful Girl From Reputed Fmly. Seeking Educated Groom from respected fmly. 8171351626

An Occasional Non Vegetarian, Tall& Fair (Punjabi/Aggarwal) Manglik Businessman or Boy working in MNC Delhi/Gurugram for a Fair & Beautiful MBA Girl (11 July'96 at 4.48 pm in Kurukshetra), send Bio-data. Contact: 9896207108 / 9996265599.

MALAYALAM

SYRIAN CHRISTIAN Pentecostal Elite Fly @ Chennai Seeks for their Architect Girl 27y/175cm from Professionally Qlfd Boy (HT>6') 9790893483

✔ **HINDU EZHAVA girl, 26 yrs, 155 cm, Star Aswathy, London educated postgrad, working in reputed MNC. Native Thrissur, settled in Bangalore. Upper middle class family, parents working professionals. Seeking postgrad, Malayali Ezhava groom, MNC employed, from respectable, well settled family. Send photo, full biodata WhatsApp: 9742221346, 9880220199.**

HINDU NAIR girl (1/3/2002, 5:15 am, Uthram) Trivandrum, MBA Australia working in Logistics company. Seeking Alliances without or with horoscope. 9526364446.

MALAYALAM

NAIR GIRL 92 born ,165cm,MBBS, Atham,seeking Nair groom from chennai/kerala/TN WhatsApp profile 9042526302,No Brokers

TAMIL

CATHOLIC, 28, Rich / affluent, Chennai circle. 8138900312

CHRISTIAN NADAR, 29, MD, CMC Vellore. Seeks suitable Groom age 30 to 33. Doctors, Engineers, Professionals. 85261 91000, 94453 96996

✔ **TAMIL MUSLIM** Sharjah settled bride (UK Bachelor's Degree) 24/ 155/50 seek Engineers/Doctors/Accountant grooms in UAE/GCC. Please send Photo/Biodata to email: allianceuae2@gmail.com

✔ **MUSLIM GIRL, 39, engineer, slim, seeks educated, employed, unmarried Tamil Muslim groom. 9444235779**

TAMIL MUSLIM Girl, Singapore Citizen, 30 Yrs / 165 cm. Electrical Engg–NUS–Singapore, looking for suitable alliance. NRI or Overseas Educated Groom, Good Family, Willing to relocate to Singapore. Ct: 8056007500

CHRISTIAN PENTECOSTAL Tamil 28/ 154cm, 40K – MNC Seeking Suitable Bridegroom. CT: 95249 50931

CATHOLIC AD Wheatish Girl, 37/165 ME Software Chennai, seeks Suitable Educated Working Groom 9442171879

PROTESTANT CHRISTIAN Nadar, 31 PG, Employed, fair, beautiful Girl, Chennai seeks fair, well settled, Religious Christian boy. Ct: 9840345969

BORN AGAIN Christian, 45yrs/152, MBBS, MD doctor, seeks christian groom, Chennai. CT – 9500188067

CHRISTIAN, DIVORCED, M.tech, 30crores, Looking for 2nd marriage groom in Uk for our daughter from any subcaste,8138900553

CHRISTIAN, MBA, 31, Looking for Govt and doctor professional in Rc,Rc nadar,RC pillai,Rcsc groom in tamilnadu or pondicherry, 7356483111

SC ARUNTHATHIAR, 32yrs/ 150ft, Govt. Doctor, MBBS., M.S., seeks suitable Groom.9788153517,6381334373

KARKATHAR PILLAI 30/ 155, B.E Software Engineer in USA, H1B seeks Tamil vegetarian groom in USA/ Canada/ India. Ct: +91 6382662451/ +91 9444221942/ vinbasekaran@yahoo.com

YADAV, RICH / affluent, MBA, looking for equal profile. 7356483111

RC NADAR, BDS, looking for a Business profile. 8138900316

HINDU, B.TECH, looking for a Canada profile in any caste. 8138009235

MUDHALIYAR, 30, rich / affluent, looking for equal caste in Tamil Nadu and Bangalore circle. 8138900412

PILLAI, 30 lakhs, widow, looking for equal caste in Chennai circle. 8138900553

MUDALIAR/ PILLAI: 22/Beautiful, MBA, Father Industrialist, Elite Family, Only daughter, seeks groom only Business. Ct– 9962530015

MUDALIAR (CNB) : 24/Fair, BE, MS (USA), MNC, SWE, USA, Decent Pay, Elite Family, Seeks Groom Abroad / India.Ct – 8925019776

BHMS (HOMOEOPATHY DOCTOR) Medical Claim Officer UTI Central Government (working in Chennai) Pillai, 17/07/1997, Height: 160cm, Virchigam Kettai looking Groom from same caste, Doctor / Engineer, Good family background. Contact: 98421 06061

DIVORCE (NO–KIDS) 43Yrs/M.Sc., M.Phil., Ph.D* Job: Asst. Prof. RC/ SC (AD), Wanted Groom with Decent Profession / Job Caste No Bar 6382135986

SEEKING NEVER married Tamil / Telugu groom age (43–44)working in Chennai or US for Naidu bride– send details to yamini.hari@gmail.com ,SWE contact +91 9543322082/044–31547506

HINDU, SC Chennai, 31yrs, BE, ECE, WIPRO, Sr. Tech Leader, seeks Suitable Alliance. Contact: 9884798695

SUITABLE QUALIFIED Alliance Invited for a Fair and Slim 32year Doctor (Dentist) MDS Vanniakula Kshatriya Girl Working as Senior Lecturer in Chennai. Dhanusu Rasi Star Moolam (4padam) Ct: 9382167197 / 9962781009

GROOM WANTED SC (AD), 27yrs, B.Tech, MBA, Well Educated Family in Chennai Ph; 6369113665

GROOM WANTED CSI Nadar 25yrs,BE,MS Australia,SWE,1.5Lp/m, educated family:9841329471/9380791999

GROOM WANTED Mudaliyar, 27yrs, MBA, Elite business family in Bangalore Ph: 6385293227

FASHION DESIGNER SaivaMudaliar Anusham 33 Very Fair Properied NeedVeg IT/ Govt Employed Groom 9566268349

HINDU Tamil, Sengundhar, Avittam, EEE (Dip) 23 Seeks SWE/Business below 26 groom from same sect having own house. Mob: 94435 10915.

TAMIL

GROOM WANTED Rich Naidu,30yrs, Divorce, MBA,well educated background in Chennai Ph;9962791888

SCA, 29YEARS, B.Tech, MBA (BIM 2019–21)13 LPA seeks Tamil Suitable Groom, CNB, Ct: 9441677205

REDDY SPECIALIST Doctor (MS) 165 Cm, 1990 born. Own practice in Chennai, Seeking never married groom, Caste No Bar. Ct: 8925640111

HINDU NADAR parents invite alliance for their daughter, 29 yrs, 163cm, well–educated, accomplished professional from a well–established and reputed family. Seeking well–settled, professionally accomplished / business class groom from a respectable Hindu Nadar family. Contact: 8939968399.

NAIDU 38, MSc, 156cm Good looking 24Lac PA wellsettled Seeks suitable Groom CNB. Ct:8778514465/ 7200866346

Hindu SC Arundhadiyar 31 B.Sc (CS) 2nd marriage-have 5 yrs boy-expecting clean habits Kind Guys. 99942-84675.

GROOM WANTED Pillai,34yrs, BE, working in Central Govt, Well Educated Family Ph: 6385293227

BANGALORE–BASED HINDU bride, 47 yrs, height 167cm, MBA, working in US for past 21 yrs, Divorced (no kids). Caste no bar. Contact: 8220765305

ATTRACTIVE, SOFT 30, 168cm, well–read UK–based architect. Open to relocating. Cultured, affluent Tamil/Telugu family. Seeks compatible groom. Caste no bar. Call/WA 93456 34365

SEEKING GRADUATE/PROFESSIONAL for 44yrs unmarried Tamil SC Hindu Adi Dravida Female IT professional (20yrs exp) from Chennai holding Singapore PR. Contact +919790921761/+91 7200942776.

HINDU NADAR– Divorcee Unconsummated Marriage – 35 JPMC /IT, Bangalore Sr.Associate 40L PA Own House. Seeks blw 38yr. Call / WA : 9442126376

GROOM WANTED Rich Mudaliyar,27yrs, MBBS, MS, Elite business family in Chennai Ph: 6385293227

ARCOT VELALA Mudaliar girl 28/ Thiruvoonam/ fair/158/ M.Tech MSc (Digt Mktg –Singapore) highly paid seeks Professional groom of well educated & respected family Ct. 9841666230

MUDALIAR 24/167 Fair, B.E, SWE, Infosys, 1000000.PA, Well–settled Family, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

HINDU, ADIDRAVIDAR, 29, Masters Law,Looking for govt staffs in higher designation for my daughter in same caste or equal caste, 8138009235

VANNAN, 27, BE, 30lakhs, Looking for same caste groom from 27-32 in tamil or telugu in overall tamilnadu for our daughter,8137001255

MUDALIAR, MS, Doctor, 40lakhs, Looking for 32-35 from Same or equal caste in MS,MD,ME for my daughter,8138900312

VANNIYA GOUNDER, MBBS, 24, Looking for Civil service groom (IAS,IFS,IRS) Grade1 in south india from any caste for my own daughter, 8137003550

PILLAI, 23, MSC, Looking for pillai and mudaliar groom in upper middle/rich and affluent in tamilnadu,8138900412

BRAHMIN-IYER, 28, MDS, Looking for a Professional groom in Maharashtra, Delhi, Hyderabad for our daughter, 8138900652

VANNIYAR, BRIDE 32 / 157CM / MEENAM, REVATHI, IT PROFESSIONAL, B.E, MBA, 9L PA, EXPECTING GOOD-LOOKING BRIDEGROOM FROM BC / MBC PREFERABLE.
CONTACT
9500122750

HINDU NADAR: Age 25 PGDM, very fair, Looking for Chennai Settled Business Family, WhatsApp: 9840907301

REMARRIAGE 42YRS Divorce.+2. Mudaliar Caste No Bar Ct: 7708700879. 9841817000

Mudaliar,29/168, Fair, BTECH wkg in MNC.Seeks suitable Groom, preferably Govt/ MNC/ CA/ Banking Professional from Hyderabad Contact: 9704890626

Wanted SCAD Professional Groom for only daughter 34/168 ME PhD WA: 6381757167

HINDU ADI-DRAVIDA Upper Middle Class, Fair, Slim, 32/174cm, MD.DM Govt, Risabam Chennai. Seeks Groom with Good Looking & Salary below 37years Caste no bar. Ph:9840728782

HINDU ADI-DRAVIDA, 28,BCom, Employed well settled Fair 164cm Seeks groom Govt /Quasi Govt - 6380135480

TELUGU

BALIJA/CASTE NO Bar, 28/174, MS–Fin.UK, Fair & Spiritual, seeks well settled groom from good family background, willing to settle abroad, Ct:9840426106

✔ **HINDU, TELUGU** Naidu, Never married, B.E, well settled independent I.T Professional,45yrs. Seeking educated well settled never married groom from a respectable Hindu family. Ph:7845749515.

BRIDES WANTED

COSMOPOLITAN

DM DR(Dec–91/6'1/ Vellala Gounder/ veg@home) seeks a v.fair, virtuous, slim, tall PG Dr / well edu bride from equal caste, at Bangalore. Parents: 9342529547/ 9072118800

SMART, SUCCESSFUL 29, 179cm, well–educated (IIT BTech/MTech) professional. Affluent S Indian business family. Seeks compatible bride. Language/caste no bar. Call/WA 9345634365

BRIDE FROM a Hindu Community required for a Qualified Software Engineer Employed in a MNC earning good salary Aged 28 – Seeking an employed girl with good family Background Contact : 9840029449

DIVORCEE

TAMIL HINDU 55y/173cm BSc, MBA, IT Prof, Australia Citizen, Divorcee. Seeks Bride, WhatsApp: +61422909407

SMART, SINCERE 43, 175cm, positive, ambitious Singapore–based tech professional. Seeks kind, compatible S Indian bride. Call/WA 9345 634 365

FAMILIAR MUSICIAN LECTURER 33 Pillai Mudaliar VEG teetotaller Hastham Music Family Expecting Music Interested Bride Caste No Bar 9384665632

REQUIRE CARING Girl without issues caste no bar for a Chennai based hindu boy 51 yrs divorcee without issues.Ct: 9841672014

BRIDE WANTED Reddiyar, 36Y BE, Chennai, IT Job, Salary 30K/M +Rental Income 30K/M, Divorcee, No Child. Ct 8072205041

DOCTOR

CHRISTIAN NADAR, Feb 1998, 178cm, MBBS, MD, General Medicine, DM Nephrology (Sri Ramachandra Medical College, Chennai), Seeks MDS, MBBS, MD Doctor Bride. Contact: 9500085244

HINDU – SC – AD – 33, Fair – MBBS, Seeks Doctor Bride – Same Community, Ct:– 9444314459

HINDU YADAVA, 13.07.1995, 3:25 PM, 176 cm, seeks MBBS/MD bride. Contact: 9444674978 / 9942005782.

GOVT / QUASI GOVT

33. 168 cm. Mgr, SBI. Atheist, Christian family. Seeks financially independent, intellectually inclined Tamil/Malayali partner. Caste/religion no bar. Ctct: 9789227517

Scientist, ISRO, Bangalore, 46 years, Tamil, Hindu, Sozhia Vellalar, Pillai, Remarriage(No Kids),Seek unmarried/ Divorced & Issueless Tamil/ Kannada/ Malayalam Girl (Age Between 36 to 41yrs only), caste NO Bar,8th or 10th also ok. NO brokers. Call:9108175339

HINDI

1985/175CM, 50 Lakhs PA, Never Married, Bangalore. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

MALAYALAM

SUITABLE BRIDE CNB for Malayalam Intercaste groom 40/182 MNC Bosch 30 LPA Coimbatore TN, Innocent Divorcee/homely bridewithout kids also accepted. CT: 88076 59287 & 99524 85996.

PALAKKAD EZHUVA boy 30/158cm/Btech/HCL/Bangalore/WFH/Shudha Jathakam. Seeks suitable bride Ph 9495136088

TELUGU

NAIDU 24/162 Fair, Beautiful, B.E, SWE, HCL,1000000.PA, Well–settled Family, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

పరుడు కావలెను
Hyderabad BC Caste 30Yrs. Height 5.10" B.Tech., Rich family అందమైన అమ్మాయికి, Rich Person Hyd. (or) Banglore. అబ్బాయి కావలెను Caste No Bar
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URDU

MUSLIM PARENTS seeks alliance for their daughter Graduate employed very fair good looking no siblings Divorcee issueless 40Y seeking groom. Ct: 96001 62458

THE HINDU
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SGTs: ₹2.8 to ₹3.5 Lacs PA
Walk in for Model Teaching Interview on 03.05.2026 (Sun) @ 9.30 am
Send resume for other subjects
S.P.P.Selvakumar, Principal
Dr. Sethu Kumanan, Correspondent

TAMIL

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar, 42, M.E., working in USA SWE, for a handsome divorced Groom Native - Nagercoil. seeks beautiful Bride educated, willing to go USA, 1st or 2nd Marriage. Ct: 09486472450, 09345648649

CHRISTIAN NADAR, Doctor, Divorcee 37yrs/178cm, MBBS, Dip in Cardiology better earning lives in Nagercoil seeks qualified/ Divorced Bride. 9003983230

RC CHRISTIAN, 43yrs/170, B.E. Software Engineer, never married, works for mnc, Chennai. CT– 9500188067

WELL–SETTLED GROOM, aged 48, own house IT employee, needs Hindu bride between 36 to 40. Contact 0413 2968644

40 BE Mudaliyar Chennai Asst Manager, Private. 1st Marriage. Decent Background Ct: 8610518808, 9952010118

HINDU, VVIP, looking for a royale and Good looking profile in south districts (any caste). 8137003550

HINDU, 34, ME, Brahmin, 45 lakhs, looking for equal profile. 8137003516

PILLAI SOZHIA Vellalar 34 yrs Poosam Kadagam Raghu-Kethu Non Veg. Lead Engineer in MNC at Coimbatore, one Lakh pm. Seeks suitable educated Bride age 27-30. Ct: 9443859181.

HINDU NADAR 29yrs, B.Tech, MS,SWE, 2 Lp/m,well educated family 9841329471,9380791999

MUDALIAR 42Y/180CM Wheatish, BSc.(Elec), Credit Manager in Reputed Co, 8Ls PA, 1st& Late Marrg 9395398624

HINDU–BE, SWE, 34yrs, 172cms, 33LPA, Ayillam – Kadagam settled in Bangalore, financially stable and educated. Looking for suitable Bride from educated family. Ct: 9845401461.

BRIDE WANTED Rich Mudaliyar,33yrs, BE, MBA,35 lakhs PA, well educated family in Chennai 9952619776

AUDITOR/ 46 Chennai/ Seeks Any Vegetarian Hindu Girl. Contact : 9884398109

CHENNAI MUDLR. PhD Tetolr Divorcd, 42yrs 170cm GM Chess Govt 24L/ Yr Educ Simple Any Cast.girl 9884171419

SCA, 32YEARS, M.E (PSGCT), MBA (SIOM 2020–22)18 LPA Seeks Tamil Suitable Bride, CNB, Ct: 9441677205

MUDALIAR (CNB): 32/ Handsome, MBBS, MS Gen.Surgery doing in USA, Elite Family, Only son, Seeks Bride India / Abroad – Whats app call only 9841718205 (Mother) / 8925019776

TAMIL

ALLIANCE INVITED - For Remarriage Groom
Hindu aged 33 years, Height 180 cm, Born 1992, Thiruvadirai, Mithunam, well educated, Fair and Handsome, owner of established business, seeks educated and good looking Hindu Bride, Caste No Bar, wish to relocate abroad.
Phone: 9944617609
Email id: msm207229@gmail.com

ARYAVYSYA, 44/180, MNC, Mumbai, Property in Chennai, CNB. Contact: 9841551772

GAVARA NAIDU / born 2000/ M.Arch. Architect & Valuer / Own Business / Well Settled / Native Kumbakonam Seeks Bride Ct : 9940787620.

HINDU NAIDU Gavara, 40yrs/178 cm, Aswini PG pvt,40000 pm first Marriage seeks unmarried Bride. Caste open for discussion. Ct: 8248869954

MUDALIYAR 44/176 cm 24 lakhs per annum, running own business seeks bride CNB. 9740098865 / 9444348233

DIVORCEE HINDU. 35yrs No issues, M.Tech, well settled Software Engineer, seeking bride with no issues. Caste no bar. 9841862535, 9941962421

BUSINESSMAN SETTLED Age 48. looking for a understanding companion or a life long relationship, interested persons specifically from TamilNadu or South India Ct 9344087191

MUKKULATHOR REMARRIAGE Rich 31 175cm BE Business Kochi Kerala seeks suitable Bride CNB Geetham 9884858014

SAIVAPILLAI 53 165cm MCA IT Engineer UK Seeks UK profiles / Willing to go UK CNB Geetham 9884858014

BRIDE WANTED Hindu Nadar 26yrs,B.Tech,SWE,1.5 lp/m,well educated family Ph: 9841329471,9380791999

HINDU NAIDU. Middle Class. Age 58. 2nd marriage. Good Looking Homely Girl. Widow Divorced ok. 9489560804

MUDALIAR 28/185 Handsome,B.E,MBA,Pr o–Mngr,Infosys,3500000.PA Afflunet Family, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

A RICH and well–settled family from Chennai seeks a suitable bride for their 31–year–old son. He is currently involved in business with his father and has aspirations to establish himself in the film industry. Caste No Bar. Interested parents may please Contact : 99942 16431

VIGNESH MCA 37 Cluster Manager in Hinduja Finance. Seeks Sozhia Vellaler/ Mudhaliar Bride. Ct:97905 96388

HINDU SC AD 34yrs MA,B.Ed Govt. job Salary 80000/Mth. seeking working bride. Ph: 9787702818

BRAHMIN IYER Boy, 32/170cms, B.Tech, TCS Chennai.seeks Brahmin Graduate Girl. Simple marriage. 9940352807

LOOKING FOR Alliance for IYER GROOM 45, B.A. LL.B. Born, Educated and Settled in Mumbai with own residence, working with Father in 30 year old Family Business. Is a Mridangam and Ghatam Artiste Expect Bride to be ideally Graduate and with interest in Carnatic Classical Music Vocal or Instrumental. Contact: dramasanthosh@gmail.com , Mobile No. 9920052977

IYER / AVITTAM 1988 B.Com / MBA working in Chennai. Seeks Pure Veg working bride. Ct : 63740 43306.

Seeking BRIDE for Bridegroom
Hindu, Kulalar/Udayaar, 44 yrs, 170 cms, M.Tech, IT professional, Caste open for discussion. First Marriage Only
CT: 93842 76066

BRIDE WANTED
Mudaliar 30/180 Handsome M.S. (Mktg) USA, Having Own Manufacturing Industry Chennai. Elite Family Seeks Well Educated Bride, Good Family
9382137912 / 8825401763

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FINANCE

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IMMD PERSONAL Business Proprty Project Collateral Low Intrst. 7305912765

TAMIL

BRIDE WANTED for Boy Born Aug 2002, Slim, 170cm- Poosam 1 Patham Kadagam - B.Tech IT 2024 Chennai, Working in TCS at Chennai - Parents, Tamil Iyer, Brahmin, Vadamal, Kousigam, Yajurvedam, North Arcot (Native Munjurpet, Vellore) -Settled at Chennai - Only Son - Seeks Suitable Bride from same caste - Respond with full details: giridharanmr@gmail.com Mobile: 97914 32784

Hindu Nadar 26-years 183 cm MTech, Private Company Contact - Phone. 9443781438

✔ **MUDALIAR 36/174 CHN IT Emp seeks Hindu Girl Contact :- 9790877562**

Remarriage, Mudaliar Boy 33, SWE, Working Canada, seeks Good Family Background Bride in Chennai /Canada Subsects No Bar. Wtsapp:9944423257

Hindu Thuluvavellar, 37yrs/168cm, Govt Staff, Income of 1.5Lakhs/PM, Partially Blind, seeks Suitable Bride. Contact: 9941602214 / 9789769606

Muslim, BE Civil Engineer, doing Construction Business, Studied MBA (HR) Also. Only Son Age 26, Ht 177cm Own Houses & Shops with rental income. Affluent well educated parents of good status, reputed family & Religious Values seeks Suitable bride. 8925227694

TELUGU

BALIJA NAIDU Parents Settled in Australia / Masters / 31 / 185Cms / Fair Handsome Well Settled, Gud Fmly Values, Invites Alliance from Similar Background. Ct:+91 73053 50270

KAMBALLATUNAICKER 32 yrs studied in Madras School of Economics working in Natwest Bank, Scotland (Head office) for 11yrs as Cross Portfolio insights Manager- Credit strategy seeking bride from Telugu speaking people. Ph: (UK) - +44 7398 143572 Father : + 91 98401 94300

NAIDU 29/185, H–Some BE, MBA–IIM, Analyst, Microsoft,5000000.PA, Elite Family,CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

TELUGU

Telugu Brahmin, 40 Years, B.Tech/ MBA, Digital Marketing Consultant, Respectable Family, Second Marriage, seeks suitable Brahmin Degree Girl, 20 Lpa, Contact: 9910991959, Email: vasudeva57@yahoo.com

Balija Naidu Jul '97 V.Fair I 5'.4" I BE,MBA IT Bengaluru. Seeks well Educated and Working – preferably Bengaluru / Chennai. Ph: 9952057740

Balija 29/178 BE/MBA Mesham - Ashwini Working in Chennai Seeks Bride Ct: 8754580155

URDU

PHD BIOTECH professional working as Research Associate in Bangalore, APR 89,170 cm, seeks (SMU) qualified, working girl – 9445714602

TN MUSLIM Syed Urdu 29/167cm Handsome Doctor MD.DM.AIIMS, New Delhi seeks beautiful urdu,syed/sheik MD/M.S.religious bride TN/Pondy Cell 9952828485

Muslim, Sunni Boy, 29/167 IT Manager Working in Chennai MNC, Salary: 32LPA. Marriage done on 08 Nov 2025, same day Girl taken Divorce. Need well Educated Girl. Cell:- 9444376676.

BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED

TAMIL

REDDIYAR 54 Australian Citizen and sister 50 both are Divorcee No issues seeks suitable life partner CT WhatsApp +61435496817

MARRIAGE BUREAU

US UK Canada All Caste Religion 1st Marriage Remarriage. Ct:8248757840

INDUSTRIAL NEEDS

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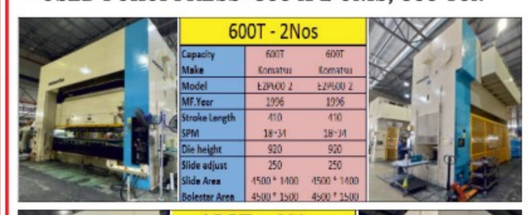
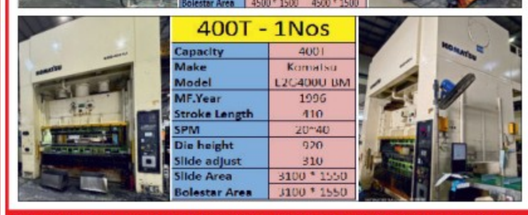
- USED - VMC BED SIZE 1100MM WITH 4 AXIS
- USED NC FEEDER 300, 600, 600, 1000MM WIDTH
- USED HIGH SPEED PRESS 45T, 110T
- USED FUKUI PRESS 300 X 2 UNIS, 500 TON



600T - 2Nos		
Capacity	600T	600T
Make	Komatsu	Komatsu
Model	E2P600 2	E2P600 2
MF.Year	1996	1996
Stroke Length	410	410
SPM	18~34	18~34
Die height	920	920
Slide adjust	250	250
Slide Area	4500 * 1400	4500 * 1400
Bolester Area	4500 * 1500	4500 * 1500



400T - 1Nos	
Capacity	400T
Make	Komatsu
Model	E2P400 UM
MF.Year	1996
Stroke Length	410
SPM	20~40
Die height	920
Slide adjust	310
Slide Area	3100 * 1550
Bolester Area	3100 * 1550

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High Court orders strict action on builders violating safety norms

The court remarks came while dismissing an appeal filed by a firm which had challenged the verdict of a single judge

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a scathing remark on building norms violation by real estate developers, the High Court of Karnataka has said that professional builders should know the building bylaws and any deviation by them in construction of high-rise buildings "deserve to be dealt with sternly, to act as a deterrent in future, by assuming that such deviations are deliberate with an intention to earn profit."

Pointing out that construction by the professional builders stand on a different footing than that of a private individual constructing his own building, the Court said that any deviation from proper set back provisions around the building, etc., alterations become indispensable.

Cannot be condoned

"Any deviation which is at the cost of the public safety at large cannot be condoned and brought in line, except taking the actions to make it in line by providing space including the demolition of the extent of building which has become an obstacle in the free movement of vehicles including heavy fire engines with other safety equipments," the Court observed.

A Division Bench, comprising Justice D.K. Singh and Justice T.M. Nadaf, made these observations while dismissing an appeal filed by M/s Vishnu Sri Builders And Developers, which had challenged the September 2025 verdict of a single judge, who had ordered demolition of construction made in setback area of Rajasri residential apartment complex Halagevaderahalli in Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru, while building a commercial complex.

The single judge had also ordered keeping in abeyance modified building plan, enabling commercial complex, issued by the erstwhile Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike till the builder removed illegal constructions.

The Bench noted that Karnataka State Fire and Emergency Services in its report submitted before the single judge had pointed out that the set back was less than the mandated 8 meters as per the plan approved for the residential apartment complex, making it impossible for the entry of heavy fire extinguishing vehicles in case of emergency.

"The high-rise buildings with pocket apartments, regardless the luxury they provide in the apartments cannot be permitted to stand at the risk of general public particularly the residents of the building and others in the neighbouring and nearby vicinities. This is based on the principle that the private interest stands subordinate to the public interest and public good," the Bench observed while finding no infirmity in the order passed by the single judge.

Why dispute arose

The dispute arose after the builder obtained a modified sanction plan in August 2021 to develop a commercial block within the apartment complex. Residents, represented by the Rajsri Apartment Owners' Association, had filed the petition before the single judge challenging the move, contending that the construction of commercial block compromised the minimum 8-metre open space required for movement of fire-fighting vehicles, in violation of the norms.

NMC directs medical colleges not to grant leave to students during UGNEET

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The National Medical Commission (NMC) has asked all medical colleges not to grant leave to students on May 2 and 3 during the Under Graduate National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (UGNEET-2026), unless in exceptional circumstances with due justification.

This is to prevent their possible involvement in exam malpractices, the Union Ministry of Education said in its letter to NMC. "This measure is intended as a preventive step to discourage any potential misuse and to support the fair conduct of the examination," it said.

"In the past, there have been instances where some medical college students were found to be involved in activities that could compromise the sanctity and integrity of the examination process. In light of this, and as a matter of general deterrence, it is requested that suitable instructions be issued to all medical colleges to remain vigilant and ensure that students are sensitised against any involvement in activities that are prejudicial to the conduct of the examination," the Ministry said. Dr. B.L. Sujatha Rathod, Director, Directorate of Medical Education, Karnataka said apart from past instances of medical students being involved in malpractices, there were incidents where some medical students re-wrote the NEET exam, secured good ranks, and obtained seats in the counselling, but did not get admitted to any college, which could possibly lead to seat blocking. "In our State, we have plugged this hole by ensuring all medical seats are filled through counselling," she said.

'Students should read Kannada papers daily after morning prayers in schools'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) has mandated that students read Kannada daily newspapers for at least 10 minutes every day after morning prayers in all government, aided, and unaided schools in the State.

The practice is mandated in residential schools, hostels, and child care institutions run by various government departments as well. This follows a proposal to the effect made by the Karnataka State Commission for Protection of Child Rights (KSCPCR) in February 2023 to prevent mobile addiction among school children.

"In the digital age, children are spending more time on the internet for online education, entertainment, and social media. Due to excessive mobile use, we are observing symptoms such as memory loss, hearing impairment, and lack of interest in physical activities," the KSCPCR said.

This step by the DSEL comes amidst a policy the government is formulating to restrict the use of social media among children below the age of 16.

"If children develop the habit of reading newspapers for at least 10 to 15 minutes every day in school, it will help them prepare for competitive exams, increase their general knowledge, current affairs, and improve their vocabulary, language style, and writing skills," the KSCPCR said.

Case against resident for obstructing Census work

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The R. T. Nagar police have registered a case against an unidentified man for allegedly abusing Census enumerators and obstructing their work for the National Census-2027.

According to the complaint, Veena, an enumerator assigned to Ward No. 43, had visited Peri Monarch Apartment near Sultanpalya Main Road, R.T. Nagar, on April 20 to collect census data. However, the accused resident allegedly refused to provide the required information. During a follow-up verification on April 25, Supervisor (Circle-2) Rashmi R. visited the same location. When she sought details regarding the number of flats and pending enumeration, the resident reportedly refused to cooperate, denied entry into the apartment premises, and obstructed the Census work. Despite repeated requests, the individual allegedly used abusive language against the officials, including offensive remarks directed at the female staff, causing humiliation and disrupted official duty.

Based on a complaint by Dr. Lokesh S.P., Census in-Charge Officer, a case has been registered against the individual under Section 11 (1) of the Census Act, 1948, along with Sections 223 and 79 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023. Police have initiated an investigation into the incident.

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, APR. 26	
RISE	06:01 SET 18:34
RISE	14:18 SET 02:16
MONDAY, APR. 27	
RISE	06:01 SET 18:34
RISE	15:08 SET 02:56
TUESDAY, APR. 28	
RISE	06:00 SET 18:34
RISE	15:56 SET 03:33

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	15
Mysuru	36	21
Bengaluru	36	25

Bengaluru Today
36°C The weather will be dry. Day will be hot and uneasy. Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
36°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be hot and uneasy. Night also will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower.

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THE HINDU
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Sentenced

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

The Additional District and Sessions Court (Special POCSO Court) in Kalaburagi sentenced a 23-year-old man to 20 years rigorous imprisonment for kidnapping and sexually assaulting a minor girl, and imposed a fine of ₹1.25 lakh. The accused has been identified as Sabanna Kattimani.

CINEMA ARTS EVENTS

MUSIC DANCE DRAMA

Abbas Cultural

Sunday, 3rd May 2026, 6.30PM at Chowdiah Memorial Hall, Malleswaram "RASA" — Tradition reimagined, richer, deeper, and more electrifying than ever. After captivating audiences with a spellbinding debut in Chennai, RASA is now all set to mesmerize Bengaluru with an unforgettable musical experience. Led by the virtuoso veena maestro RAJESH VAIDHYA and the soul-stirring vocalist SANDEEP NARAYAN, Rasa is a vibrant celebration of rhythm, melody, and emotion. Blending the timeless beauty of Carnatic & Western music with contemporary energy, the concert creates a dynamic soundscape. TICKETS @ BOOKMYSHOW.COM

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No.Y/E.29/2026-27/06
Dated: 16-04-2026
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Description of work	Approx. Value
Setting up of quick Coach watering system with allied facilities at Subrahmanya Road station.	Rs. 41,02,754.03

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 07-05-2026
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer
PUB/54/AAF/PRB/SWR/2026-27 General / Mysuru
Download the RailOne app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY
Material Management Department
('e' Tender Notice for the supply of Stores, No.EPS/04/2026)
PCMM/WCR on behalf of the President of India invites the following advertised tenders through E-procurement System. No manual/postal offers shall be entertained. Tenders can be accessed under the link website https:/ireps.gov.in" for details and for submission of Tender.

Sr No.	Tender No.	Short Description	Tendered Qty.	Due Date
1	38255010B	CASNUB-22HS cast steel bogies	284 Nos.	15/05/2026
2	38261757	Floor Channel (stringer inner) for BOXNHL wagon	15572 Nos.	18/05/2026
3	8125WCRTP-05A	Manufacture and Supply of 10 mm thick Composite Grooved Rubber Sole Plate	2933420 Nos.	19/05/2026
4	40262744	70AH, 110V, Valve Regulated Lead Acid	241 Sets.	25/05/2026
5	40262753	Disconnecting and Earthing Device,	210 Nos.	28/05/2026
6	38261777	Shank Wear plate for CBC	52911 Nos.	04/06/2026

" For tenders with estimated value below Rs. 50 lakh, interested firms are advised to visit **www.ireps.gov.in"**.
(SD)
Principal Chief Material Manager, WCR, Jabalpur
स्वच्छ भारत अभियान एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:
OPEN TENDER NOTICE NO. 08/SBC/26 of 16-04-2026

Sl.	Description of work	Approx Value
1	**Bengaluru Division: Sub Work - I:** CTR(S) of exg 90R rails on CST-9 sleepers with 52kg 90UTS rails on 52kg PSC sleepers at 1540 density for a length of 7.05 kms in FCI siding at WFD section in Senior Divisional Engineer/East/Bengaluru Section (Balance Work). **Sub Work - II:** CTR(S) of exg 90R/52 Kg Rails on CST-9/52 Kg PSC Sleepers with 52Kg/90UTS Rails on 52 Kg PSC sleeprs at 1540 density for a length of 1.741km in FCI siding at KJM yard in Senior Divisional Engineer/East/Bengaluru section. (Balance Work)	Rs. 1,95,70,037/-
2	**Senior Divisional Engineer/East/Bengaluru Section:** Proposed improvements to road surface of Level Crossing Gates in Assistant Divisional Engineer/ Bangarapet sub-division in Bengaluru-Jolarpettai Section LC Nos. 94, 96, 103, 118, 119, 122, 125, 126 and Yelhanka Bangarapet section LC Nos. 166, 163, 162, 124, 148 and Bangarapet Marikuppam section LC No.1 (Total 14 LCs). Maintenance period is 6 month	Rs. 65,19,809/-
3	**Senior Divisional Engineer/East/Bengaluru Section :** **Sub Work - I:** Proposed construction of Type-II quarters (4 units) at Mulanur (MAR) station including electrical portion. **Sub Work - II:** Proposed construction of Crew Lobby at Satellite Goods Terminal (SGT) including electrical portions. **Sub Work - III:** Assistant Divisional Engineer / Bangarpet Sub division: Improvements of Divyangjan facilities at Tyakal, Kamasamudram, Bisanattam, Gudupalli, Mulanur, Patchur, Coromandel, Oorgaum, Champion, Kolar, Srinivasapura, Chintamani Stations including electrical portions. Maintenance period is 3 years. Composite Tender.	Rs. 4,67,45,665/-
4	**Senior Divisional Engineer/East/Bengaluru Section :** Provision of Automatic signaling between Whitefield (WFD) - Jolarpettai (JTJ) section - Construction of Auto Goomties buildings including electrical portion. Maintenance period is 3 years. Composite Tender.	Rs. 8,90,39,648/-
5	**Assistant Divisional Engineer/Bangarpet Sub-Division:** Proposed Construction of new S and T building including electrical portion at Bisanatham (BSM) station. Maintenance period is 3 years. Composite Tender.	Rs. 1,99,83,973/-
6	**Bengaluru - Yeliyur Section:** Extension of Bridge No. 455 at Km. 11/000-100 and Bridge No. 456 at Km. 11/462 at Kengeri (KGI) yard for yard improvements. Maintenance period is 4 years.	Rs. 1,66,27,717/-
7	**Bengaluru Division:** Provision of water cooler at KSR Bengaluru (SBC) - 14 Nos, Yelahanka (YNK) - 9 Nos, Bidadi (BID) - 1 No, Champion (CHU) -1 No, Coromandel (COL) - 1 No. and Oorgaum (OGM) -1 No. (Total - 27 Nos.). Maintenance period is 6 months or one monsoon period whichever is later	Rs. 31,87,663/-
8	**Bengaluru - Yeliyur section:** Construction of Foot Over Bridge (FOB) at km 55/200 at Channapatna (CPT) yard near LC No. 47 (Gangway: 32.0 x 3.0m, Stair case: 2 x 3.0x 20m) for pedastrian movement. (4T Crossings). Maintenance period is 6 months or one monsoon period whichever is later.	Rs. 1,88,44,786/-

Last date for submission of bids:**Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 11-05-2026**

OPEN TENDER NOTICE NO. 09/SBC/26 of 17-04-2026

Sl.	Description of work	Approx Value
1	**Bengaluru - Yeliyuru section:** Construction of RCC Over Head Tank (OHT) 2 lakh litre capacity with GLR 2 lakh liters capacity including electrical portion at Mandya (MYA) colony. Maintenance period is 6 months or one monsoon period whichever is later. Composite Tender.	Rs. 96,32,952/-

Last date for submission of bids:**Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 14-05-2026**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Engineer /Co-Ordination Bengaluru
PUB/55/AAF/PRB/SWR/2026-27
Download the RailOne app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

PUBLIC NOTICE
It is hereby notified that, my clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule Property from its Owners: **(1)Smt.Prameela Shivakumar** W/o late G.Shivakumar, **(2)Sri.Aakash** A.Chajjed S/o late Ashok Kumar.T.S, **(3)Smt.Anju K. Chowdhary** W/o late Kamalesh.G Chowdhary and her children Smt.Saijal Jain and Sri.Jigar Chowdhary, **(4)Smt.A.R.Jayashree** W/o late S.R. Amarnath, **(5)Smt.A.Pallavi Adarsh** W/o Sri.Adarsh K. Murthy and **(6)Sri.G.S.Yoganarasimha** S/o late G.S.Shankaraiah.
Apart from the said owners, if any other person/s have any manner of claim or interest or demand over the Schedule property or any part thereof by way of sale, lease, mortgage, gift, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, pre-emption or otherwise howsoever, they are hereby requested to file their objection/s (along with the photocopies of the documents on which they are relying), with the undersigned within **14 days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.
SCHEDULE
All that piece and parcel of the entire residential apartment building known as "ADARSH GARADI RESIDENCY" comprised of six apartments, bearing Municipal Nos.20 (E.PID No.6098536117), 20/3 (E.PID No.5378610822), 20/4 (E.PID No.9538011053), 20/5 (E.PID No.2097074006), 20/6 (E.PID No.5604408431) and 20/7 (E.PID No.8916456239), built on the land/property bearing Municipal No.20, measuring East to West 120ft and North to South 50ft, in all measuring 6000 Sq.ft., situated at New High School Road, V.V.Puram, Bangalore and bounded on:
East by : Jain Temple Street
West by : New High School Road
North by : Property of Sri.G.Basavaraj
South by: Property of Sri.D.M.NagarajRao and others.
Sd/- S.F. Goutam Chand, Advocate
Goutam Associates
No.60, 2nd Floor, Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bangalore-560004

EDUCATION HUB A Business Initiative

Alliance Pre-University College Achieves Outstanding Results in II PUC Annual Examinations of 2025-26

Alliance Pre-University College achieved outstanding results in the 2025-26 II PUC examinations, with a 100% pass rate across all core subjects. Students demonstrated strong academic performance, including perfect scores by Shivam P., Neeraja P.R., and Vishalakshi S. in Business Studies, with Shivam P. also scoring full marks in Hindi. Overall, 18 students secured distinction and 32 achieved first class. The Principal and Management of Alliance Pre-University College extended their heartfelt congratulations to all the students for their outstanding achievements. Wishing the students continued success, the management expressed confidence in their future endeavors and encouraged them to strive for greater accomplishments in higher education and beyond. The results reflect the institution's high academic standards, dedicated faculty, and supportive learning environment.

Utsav Trayana – Echoes of Every Path

Utsav Trayana was inaugurated recently, at B.M.S. College of Engineering, Bengaluru, transforming the campus into a vibrant hub of creativity and celebration. The opening ceremony was graced by distinguished guests, including music director and singer Gurukiran Shetty, actor Darling Krishna, and actress Chaitra J. Achar, along with the institution's management and academic leadership. A notable highlight of the event was the introduction of a fee waiver initiative for students securing a CET rank within 1000 and those from defence backgrounds. Additionally, winners of the open house project exhibition were recognized and awarded cash prizes for their achievements.

East Point College of Medical Sciences Celebrates Graduation Day 2026

East Point College of Medical Sciences & Research Centre held its Graduation Ceremony 2026 at its Jnanaprabha campus, celebrating 165 medical graduates (154 UG and 11 PG) as they advanced into their professional careers. The event was attended by key dignitaries, including S. Chandrashekar Shetty as Chief Guest, who highlighted the importance of ethics, compassion, and continuous learning in medicine. Leadership members such as B. L. Ramadevi and S. V. Pramod Gowda emphasized the institution's commitment to producing skilled and ethical healthcare professionals. Highlights included the administration of the Hippocratic Oath, recognition of academic excellence, and Rakshitha G being named Best Outgoing Student. The ceremony concluded with gratitude to faculty and a message reinforcing that being a doctor is a lifelong commitment to service, integrity, and patient care.

Presidency University Hosts 'Invincia 2026', Sreeleela & Javed Ali set the stage ablaze

Invincia 2026, Presidency University's flagship cultural fest, concluded successfully after a vibrant two-day celebration of music, arts, and creativity. The event witnessed participation from over 30,000 attendees and 4,000 competitors representing 100+ colleges across Karnataka. Key highlights included captivating performances by singer Javed Ali and rapper Reble, along with the presence of actress Sreeleela as Chief Guest, who also unveiled the Presidency Group's 50-year logo. Organized by the Department of Student Affairs, the fest reflected the university's commitment to fostering talent and providing a dynamic platform for student expression. INVINCIA 2026 was held under the guidance of Mrs. Kauser Nissar Ahmed Managing trustee and Mr. Salman Nissar Ahmed VP President Presidency University. This largest cultural spectacle was organised by The Department of Student Affairs under the direction of Dr.Vidya Shankar Shetty -Pro Vice Chancellor & Dean Dr.Anu Sukhdev. Through 'Invincia' Presidency University reinforced its commitment to encouraging talent and creating meaningful platform for the youth.

Students of Narayana Schools Excel in CBSE Class 10 Results 2026

47 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE NARAYANA SCHOOLS

Narayana Schools in Bengaluru delivered outstanding results in the CBSE Class 10 Board Examinations, with five students achieving near-perfect scores. Top performers included Ahaan Sajeevan and B. Sanjana Reddy (498/500), along with Bhuvi Veerendra Sutar, Shaurya Manoj Wattamwar, and P. Nithish Raaj (497/500). The results underscore the effectiveness of Narayana's structured academic approach, which emphasizes conceptual clarity, continuous assessment, and personalized mentorship through programs like E-Techno, DPT, and N-ELITE. Students credited their success to consistent practice, detailed feedback, and strong teacher and parental support. Sindhura Narayana, Director of Narayana Educational Institutions, highlighted that the achievement reflects both student dedication and the institution's robust academic system, aimed at preparing learners for future success. Congratulating the toppers Dr, Sindhura stated that the exceptional results reflect not just the hard work of students, but also the strength of our academic system and said were proud to nurture young minds. To know more, visit at: https://www.narayanaschools.in/;

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ISSN 0971 - 751X

SFC suggests probe into power billing of panchayat installations

The commission expresses concern over the huge discrepancies in billing and a lack of coordination among authorities that has resulted in accruing of interest amount running into thousands of crores

B.S. Satish Kumar
BENGALURU

The State Finance Commission (SFC) has recommended the government to conduct a high-level inquiry into electricity billing and payment with respect to street lights and drinking water supply of gram panchayats, expressing concern over huge discrepancies in billing and lack of coordination among authorities that has resulted in accruing of interest amount to thousands of crores.

In its report, the three-member SFC, led by former MP, C. Narayanaswamy, has termed this interest burden as "avoidable".

The SFC pointed out that a huge part of the grants to gram panchayats from SFC and the Central Finance Commission was being used to pay up the power bills, including the interest component. Lapses in the system that had resulted in accruing of interest had snatched the funds required for ensuring quality life and development.

The commission has proposed that an inquiry should cover the complete process of electricity billing, payments and auditing at different levels by including all stakeholders. FILE PHOTO

The SFC has proposed that an inquiry should cover the complete process of electricity billing, payments and auditing at different levels by including all stakeholders. This would help in fixing responsibilities for the "striking lapses" and prevent recurrence of such lapses, it said.

Hailing Belagavi and Davangere zilla panchayats for conducting an energy audit, the SFC pointed out that such an audit in Belagavi district involving a coordinated approach of all the authorities in verification of bills had resulted in an average savings of ₹2.58 lakh per gram panchayat per year. If this was applied to all the village panchayats, then the State would save ₹155 crore a year, the commission observed. It asked all zilla panchayats to take up similar energy audits.

Providing an insight into the magnitude of the power bills of gram panchayats, the SFC pointed out that all the five Escoms in the State had claimed a total power dues of ₹6,509.90 crore for eight years from April 1, 2015, to March 31, 2023, that included an interest component of ₹1,252 crore. However, the interest dues had been waived by the government through a "securitisation" order, it pointed out.

Dry borewells too

The commission, which conducted a detailed analysis of payment of electricity bills by gram panchayats for the first time, pointed out that even the dried up and inactive borewells had been billed by Escoms due to the failure to install meters for all installations. It recommended installing meters to all street lights and drinking water supply systems, and asked the Escoms to discontinue the present system of charging the power consumption for unmetered installations at flat rates.

The commission also recommended that the conventional lights under the 'Hombelaku' scheme be replaced by LED bulbs and solar powered lights to promote energy conservation.

Remark on *Kantara:* HC accepts actor's apology; says will pass appropriate orders

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Saturday (April 25, 2026) said it would accept actor Ranveer Singh's voluntary undertaking to offer prayers at the Chamundeshwari temple in Mysuru and a written apology over his "reckless" act of "mocking" the sacred *daiva* tradition depicted in Kannada film *Kantara Chapter-1*, and would pass appropriate orders disposing of his plea challenging the FIR for allegedly hurting religious sentiments.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna made these observations while hearing the petition filed by Mr. Singh, who has challenged the FIR registered by the High Grounds police in Bengaluru on the direction of a metropolitan magistrate in Bengaluru. The magistrate had acted on a private complaint lodged by Prashanth Metha, a city-based advocate.

Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh greets Kannada actor Rishab Shetty during the closing ceremony of the 56th International Film Festival of India, in Panaji, Goa, on November 28, 2025. PTI

'Mocking' daiva

Mr. Singh, during the closing ceremony of International Film Festival of Goa (IFFI)-2025 in Goa on November 28, 2025, had on the stage mimiced actor Rishab Shetty's performance in the climax of the film, while calling the revered *daiva* Chavundi of coastal Karnataka as "female ghost."

Though the actor had subsequently apologised through his social media account 'X' for "mocking" the sacred *daiva*, the complaint said that apology through social media account cannot be considered as actor's personal apology as his social media account is handled by his managers.

Following this, the actor submitted the apology in written form to the court with a voluntary undertaking of offering prayer at Chamundeshwari temple to show his reverence.

As the complainant said that the actor has not indicated date for visiting the temple, the court said that it would set deadline as the actor's advocate said that date has been not mentioned in the affidavit for security reasons as it would depend on permission to be given to the police to visit the temple.

On the complainant's plea that the court should make some 'harsh' observations to deter prominent personalities from making such reckless statements hurting religious sentiments in future, the court said it would pass appropriate orders without going into the legality of registration of the FIR.

'Farming viable only when growers can decide market prices'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

> Through the use of technology and innovative farming and selling techniques, our farmers should be able to earn well
>
> **H.K. PATIL,**
> Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs, and Tourism.

Farming will become viable only when farmers can stop selling their produce below the production cost and start deciding the market prices of their crops, said H.K. Patil, Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs, and Tourism.

Addressing the Global Agri-Tech Summit 2026 in Bengaluru on Saturday, the Minister said: "Today, markets are not of sellers, but only buyers. Through the use of technology and innovative farming and selling techniques, our farmers should be able to earn well and treat and manage their land parcels as high-yield enterprises."

By integrating high-end technology in farming, farmers would be able to produce foodgrains, vegetables, and fruits that comply with global phyto-sanitary standards. "Such efforts will help Brand Karnataka dominate in the international markets," the Minister added.

Climate change

Farmers increasingly are on the frontlines of climate change, the uncertainty in weather patterns. However, he said, technology alone can't ease the woes of farmers that are related to market volatility and huge price pressures.

"As the Law Minister, I am committed to creating a legal framework that protects farmers' rights in this tech heavy era," the Minister said.

At the function, Chief Secretary Shalini Rajnesh said: "Traditionally, our farmers are focussed on production. And it is for their children, and their next generation to help them focus on markets and better prices."

Global Agri-Tech Summit 2026, being organised by trade body, FKCCI, will conclude on Sunday.

Vaishnaw inaugurates facility dedicated to building high-speed rail

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Aditya, a specialised complex dedicated to the manufacturing of high-speed rail, was inaugurated by Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting, and Electronics & Information Technology, on BEML's Thippasandra campus here on Saturday.

The newly inaugurated Aditya complex is currently designed for the development of coaches for B-28, which is India's first indigenous high-speed electric bullet trainset. It is designed to run at speeds of up to 280 kmph.

The Minister emphasised that high-speed rail technology was complex and intricate, noting that its development within the country marked a significant milestone for indigenous engineering.

The Minister highlighted the transformative power of high-speed rail, stating that the advent of these trains would cause major cities to be seen as extensions of one another. He cited the example of the travel time between Chennai and Bengaluru, which is expected to drop to just 73 minutes, effectively making the two cities part of a single integrated hub.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw at BEML's 'Aditya'' complex in Bengaluru on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Minister said that connectivity would be enhanced by introduction of two new services. A new Mail Express featuring LHB coaches would be introduced via Hubballi, and a Vande Bharat Sleeper Express is scheduled to commence operations soon.

Addressing regional connectivity, the Minister confirmed that the Vande Bharat service between Mangaluru and Bengaluru would be launched very soon.

He emphasised that the planning for this service had duly taken into consideration the linking of Madgaon and other coastal cities of Karnataka prior to implementation.

Technical hurdles had been cleared, including the completion of electrification on the Hassan-Mangaluru section and the integration of Automated Emergency Braking systems for safety on steep coastal gradients.

The Minister said that the ongoing work at the Thippasandra facility on the next generation of rolling stock was central to the vision of a developed India.

'₹45 crore allocated to tackle rural drinking water scarcity'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As summer heat escalates, particularly in North Karnataka, Minister for Rural Development & Panchayat Raj and IT/BT Priyank Kharge on Saturday directed officials at the district, taluk, and gram panchayat levels to take coordinated measures to mitigate the impact of extreme heat on citizens.

The Government of Karnataka has allocated ₹45 crore to districts across the State to tackle emergency water scarcity in rural areas during the peak summer months, he said, adding that funds would be utilised to ensure uninterrupted access to safe drinking water through immediate and targeted interventions, including tanker supply and the hiring of private borewells.

The allocation has been made under the State Plan for 2026-27 through the Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Department. Of the total outlay, ₹3,415.50 lakh has been earmarked for capital expenditure, ₹771.75 lakh under the Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (SCP), and ₹312.75 lakh under the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP).

Localised response

"This allocation is aimed at enabling swift, localised responses in water-scarce regions. District administrations must act promptly and responsibly to ensure that no village faces distress due to lack of drinking water," the Minister said.

The Minister directed the district administrations to prioritise tanker-based water supply and the use of rented borewells in areas facing acute shortage. He also emphasised the need to revive defunct borewells through flushing and deepening, while advising that new borewell drilling be undertaken only as last resort, based on technical guidance from geologists.

In a communication to chief executive officers of zilla panchayats and officials across local bodies, the Minister emphasised the need to ensure uninterrupted access to safe drinking water in all villages.

Children vulnerable

Highlighting the vulnerability of children, Mr. Kharge directed officials to ensure that government schools, anganwadis, and childcare centres were equipped with sufficient drinking water and maintain cooler indoor environments.

"Rising temperatures are a serious public health concern, and our response must be proactive, localised, and immediate. Preventive action today will help us avoid larger health risks tomorrow," the Minister said.

The Ministr further advised that public-facing activities be scheduled during early morning or late evening hours to avoid peak heat.

Dinesh slams removal of 'janivara' of students at CET centre

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao on Saturday condemned the alleged removal of 'janivara' (sacred thread) of students at a CET centre as "inhuman" and said the government had taken note of the matter and assured transparent action.

The police have registered a case and initiated an investigation into the incident that took place on Friday at a city college where three students were allegedly asked to remove their sacred thread by the staff before entering exam hall. The college has suspended the staff.

Dinesh Gundu Rao FILE PHOTO

"The inhuman act of asking students to remove their ear studs, bangles, hijab or sacred thread, and even cutting long sleeves with scissors thereby affecting their morale is unacceptable and condemnable," Mr. Rao said in a post on 'X'.

He added that examination centres must test students' knowledge and not undermine their dignity, adding that the government would take stringent steps to prevent recurrence of such incidents.

ಚಾಮರಾಜನಗರ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನಗಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ
Chamarajanagar Institute of Medical Sciences
(An Autonomous Institute of Govt. of Karnataka)
Sy. No. 124, Yadapura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Chamarajanagar - 571313
Email : directorcimscrnagara@gmail.com
Tel : 08226-226701, Website : https://cimscrnagara.karnataka.gov.in

No. CIMS/Accts/258/2025-26 **Date : 18-04-2026**

E-AUCTION NOTIFICATION

Sub : Invitation for e-auction for investment of surplus funds of CIMS, Chamarajanagar.

The E-Auction has been invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 Rule 2000 for investment of surplus funds of this institution. Interested bidders are informed to apply the e-auction on or before date : 16-05-2026 at 4.00 pm.

If the last date for submission of document declared as Government holiday, the next working day shall be treated as last date. No separate notification in this regardwill be issued. Interested tenderers may contact the college authorities for further information.

Sd/- Director and Dean
Chamarajanagar Insitutite of Medical Sciences
Chamarajanagar

No. : DIPR:CHANAGAR:66:2026-27

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

10th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

JAGADAMMA & KRISHNA PILLAI
"Acha and Amma we miss you terribly"
Remembered by: **Loving Daughter and Grand Daughter**

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DEATH

SAD DEMISE

Sri V. Janakiraman
Retired Chief Electrical Engineer Southern Railway

Passed away on 14/04/2026

Fondly remembered and deeply grieved by
his wife Jalma and daughter Bhavani & extended family

Tamil Nadu launches third synchronised Nilgiri Tahr survey

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Tamil Nadu Forest Department has commenced the third synchronised survey of the Nilgiri Tahr from April 24 to 27, covering the species' entire range across the State. Conducted under the flagship Project Nilgiri Tahr, the annual exercise plays a crucial role in long-term conservation planning for Tamil Nadu's State Animal.

The survey is being carried out in coordination with the Kerala Forest Department to ensure simultaneous counting across the Western Ghats' shared landscape. This synchronised approach prevents duplication of counts and offers a more accurate estimate of the population across State boundaries.

Launched on October 12, 2023, Project Nilgiri Tahr focuses on comprehensive conservation strategies, including habitat management, population monitoring, and the use of advanced scientific methods with support from global experts. An official release said the survey is timed after the winter calving season, when young tahr are visible alongside adult herds, improving the reliability of population assessments.

As per the release, this year's survey marks a significant scale-up. Covering over 3,100 km, it spans 14 forest divisions, 43 ranges, 124 beats, and 177 survey blocks.

KCR's daughter launches Telangana Rashtra Sena

Kalvakuntla Kavitha accuses former BRS regime of corruption, atrocities against Dalits and increased surveillance via phone tapping; she promises free education, healthcare, four lakh jobs

P. Laxma Reddy
R. Ravikanth Reddy
HYDERABAD

Kalvakuntla Kavitha launches the Telangana Rashtra Sena at Munnerabad, Medchal Malkajgiri district on Saturday. NAGARA GOPAL

Claiming that the party that led the Statehood movement, the Telangana Rashtra Samithi (TRS), had lost its soul after being renamed the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), former BRS leader Kalvakuntla Kavitha on Saturday announced the launch of a new political party – the Telangana Rashtra Sena.

Ms. Kavitha, daughter of former Telangana CM and BRS founder K. Chandrashekhar Rao, apologised to the people for being part of a family that had 'misruled' the State for nearly a decade since Telangana's formation. Intensifying her criticism of the BRS regime, she listed charges, including corruption, atrocities against Dalits, and increased surveillance of the public through alleged phone tapping.

Ms. Kavitha said her party would focus on providing free education, including in private schools, and free healthcare covering all illnesses, including chronic diseases. She said the party would work towards realising the slogan 'farmer is king' in the agriculture sector, generate four lakh jobs within one year of coming to power, and ensure comprehensive social justice.

However, the Telangana Rashtra Sena may face legal hurdles due to strict norms of the Election Commission of India (EC) on party names that resemble existing or legacy political parties.

Karthik Reddy, son of BRS MLA Sabita Indra Reddy, said EC rules clearly prohibit the reuse of identical or closely resembling names, as such similarities could confuse voters.

Probe sought into chopper flight over Sabarimala

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

A preliminary report prepared by the Kerala Police in connection with the incident of a Coast Guard helicopter flying without permission over the Sabarimala temple on Thursday has termed the incident a serious security lapse.

According to the report, prepared by S. Sreejith, Additional Director General of Police, the helicopter flew directly above the temple's flagpole, which is a high-security zone, and the explanation provided by the Coast Guard cited poor weather conditions.

Stressing the need for a detailed investigation, the report said that more information should be collected from the air traffic control room, along with a report from the Meteorological Observatory and statements from the pilots who flew the helicopter.

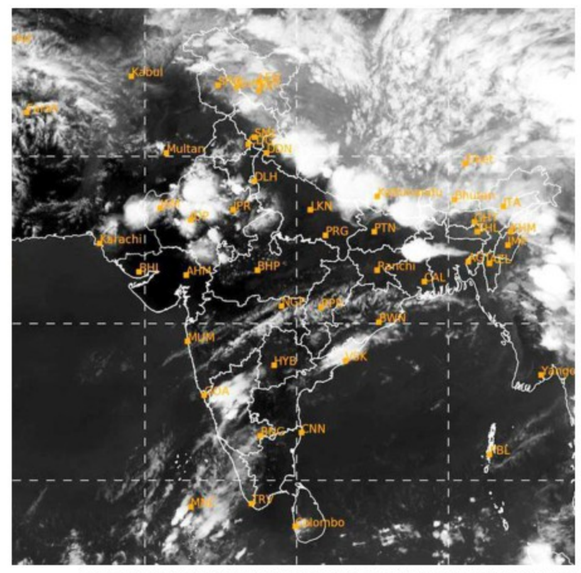
'Photos taken'

The helicopter, on a routine training sortie from Kochi on Thursday afternoon, deviated from its flight path and flew over the hills where the temple is located. According to reports, the low-flying chopper circled slowly four times, flying at an altitude of about five feet above the flagpole.

Security officials alleged that those on board the helicopter also took photographs of the temple. Due to security concerns, drones are not allowed in Nilackal, Pampa, and Sannidhanam.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim and West Bengal. Heat wave conditions likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh and Vidarbha

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	35.3	26.8	Kozhikode	—	37.4	28.4
Ahmedabad	—	43.8	27.0	Kurnool	—	42.9	28.4
Aizawl	—	34.6	21.0	Lucknow	—	42.9	25.0
Allahabad	—	45.5	23.6	Madurai	—	39.0	27.1
Bengaluru	—	36.0	24.8	Mangaluru	—	34.7	25.3
Bhopal	—	42.4	25.0	Mumbai	—	35.8	25.0
Bhubaneswar	—	36.8	27.4	Mysuru	—	36.2	21.2
Chandigarh	—	41.0	23.2	New Delhi	—	42.8	25.2
Chennai	—	37.2	28.0	Patna	—	40.8	27.1
Coimbatore	—	37.2	25.8	Port Blair	—	32.5	26.3
Dehradun	—	38.7	22.7	Puducherry	—	35.0	28.0
Gangtok	—	20.4	14.2	Pune	—	42.4	27.1
Goa	—	35.0	27.9	Raipur	—	44.6	27.5
Guwahati	—	30.4	25.7	Ranchi	—	40.8	22.0
Hubballi	—	38.0	23.0	Shillong	—	26.4	15.5
Hyderabad	—	39.7	25.9	Shimla	—	30.5	20.0
Imphal	—	33.0	18.5	Srinagar	4	21.2	13.5
Jaipur	—	41.8	31.4	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.5	28.1
Kochi	—	33.4	28.8	Tiruchi	—	39.1	27.6
Kohima	—	28.0	16.0	Vijayawada	—	38.5	27.0
Kolkata	—	37.2	27.9	Visakhapatnam	—	32.8	27.3

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.37	372	..3	 49	...135	
Bengaluru	.11	..81	57	..... —	...110	
Chennai	.14	...10	46	 13	28	
Delhi	.55	114	32	... 252	...335	
Hyderabad	...2	9	19	 90	...114	
Kolkata	...8	..41	27	 46	53	
Lucknow	.22	..30	17	... 279	...192	
Mumbai	...1	..29	13	... 174	...179	
Pune	.43	..82	51	 61	91	
Visakhapatnam	.39	..58	22	 31	...106	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 326 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 21

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Lisa Gill takes charge as A.P. HC Chief Justice

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Justice Lisa Gill was sworn in as the Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh High Court by Governor S. Abdul Nazeer at the Lok Bhavan on Saturday.

Chief Secretary G. Sai Prasad commenced the proceedings, while the Registrar General of the High Court read out the Warrant of Appointment issued by the President of India.

G. Anantha Ramu, Special Chief Secretary to the Governor, presided over the programe.

First Lady Sameera Nazeer, Minister for Tourism Kandula Durgesh, Members of Parliament Kesineni Sivanath and Sana Satish, MLC P. Anuradha, High Court judges, Director General of Police (DGP) Harish Kumar Gupta and other dignitaries were present. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu also extended good wishes to Justice Lisa Gill.

Panic buying triggers fuel shortage in A.P.

V. Kamalakara Rao
VISAKHAPATNAM

Andhra Pradesh is currently facing a shortage of both petrol and diesel, affecting commuters, farmers and transport operators.

The crisis is acute in Eluru district, where a majority of the 426 affected petrol outlets have temporarily run out of stock. In contrast, Visakhapatnam remains largely unaffected, with only one reported dry outlet.

State Civil Supplies Commissioner K. Kanna Babu clarified that the government convened meetings with the suppliers to resolve the issue. He assured the public that the oil companies had agreed to supply 10% more fuel than the April 2025 levels.

An official statement from IndianOil assured uninterrupted availability of petroleum products across the country.

From Page One

BWSSB to install RWH and recover its cost in instalments

Sources said the RWH system that the BWSSB would install was a "state-of-the-art and innovative rainwater harvesting system" that took very less space, ready to use and would cost between ₹8,000 and ₹10,000 for a building with a built-up area of 2,400 sq ft.

"It possesses the remarkable capability of achieving a recovery rate of over 90% through a 60-micron mesh using only gravity. The regulatory system and automatic window work in tandem, to instantly expel waste of any size present in water, providing exceptionally pure water," the BWSSB said in a statement.

The board has already installed the RWH system at 75 locations in the city on a pilot basis and this had shown good results, prompting an expansion. The BWSSB plans to take up a massive campaign to expand this to buildings that have not yet installed rainwater harvesting.

Mr. Manohar clarified that detailed discussions regarding the implementation of this ambitious project would be held in the upcoming board meeting of the entity to take a final decision.

Man bludgeoned to death near temple; accused arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An onion merchant was bludgeoned to death with a stone near a temple in the Kadugodi area of Bengaluru, following a personal dispute. The accused was arrested within hours of the incident.

According to the complaint filed by Shaila, her husband Ramachandra had been engaged in the onion trade in the city for several years. During that time, he had developed an acquaintance with a woman named Manjula, and the two were reportedly in a relationship. Ramachandra was said to frequently visit her residence in Patalamma Layout, Kadugodi.

The complaint further states that a local resident, identified as Harish, who lived near the Patalamma Temple, disapproved of Ramachandra's visits. This reportedly led to repeated confrontations between Harish and the deceased.

On the night of April 24, 2026, around 8:00 p.m., Ramachandra allegedly went to Manjula's house in an inebriated state and later fell asleep near the temple premises. Harish is suspected to have attacked him with a large stone, resulting in his death.

The Kadugodi police registered a case under Section 103(1) of the BNS, 2023. Police teams were immediately deployed to trace the accused.

Within a few hours, the police apprehended him.

Space City vision taking shape: A.P. IT Minister

The Hindu Bureau
VISAKHAPATNAM

IT and HRD Minister Nara Lokesh on Saturday expressed happiness and satisfaction over the government's vision of building a Space City in Andhra Pradesh taking shape.

The State government had earlier announced establishing a Space City in Thottambedu mandal of Tirupati district.

Touted to be the first space-focused industrial cluster in the State, the Space City was proposed across 2,600 acres.

Astrobase Space, a private firm involved in enhancing India's space launch capabilities, a few days ago posted on X the pictures of the upcoming facility.

INBRIEF

Revanth launches Skyroot's orbital rocket Vikram-I

Skyroot Aerospace's orbital rocket Vikram-I, capable of launching satellites, was flagged off from the spacetech startup's facility in Hyderabad on Saturday by Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, to Sriharikota, from where it is likely to be launched to space in June. Designed and developed in Hyderabad, the rocket, the first such privately developed in India, is 23 metres tall. It can carry a payload of 300 kg though the company plans to have smaller payloads during the initial launches.

Consumers urged to regulate power use in Kerala

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala State Electricity Board (KSEB) on Saturday urged consumers to regulate the use of electricity during peak hours in the evening, stating that consumption has risen beyond expectations this summer.

The State's power transmission and distribution network is under stress owing to soaring consumption, and at least a few places are facing voltage issues, according to the power utility.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Salem Division (Signal & Telecom Branch)
E-Tender Notice No.
(i) SA-SG-120-I-OT-01-2026, closing date 14.05.2026
(ii) SA-SG-120-I-OT-03-2026, closing date 14/05/2026

Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/Southern Railway/Salem Division, Salem - 636005 for and on behalf of the President of India invites ONLINE tenders for the following works as per tender notice given in our e-tender portal **www.ireps.gov.in,** The tenderer(s)/contractor(s) intending to apply for e-tender for WORKS in Salem Division, need to get enrolled in the e-tender portal **"www.ireps.gov.in"** and only online tenders will be accepted. Payment of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) & Tender Document Cost (TDC), in respect of e-tendering, should be accepted through net banking or payment gateway only. **Fixed Deposit Receipt (FDR) will not be accepted as EMD for tenders invited on IREPS (e-tender portal).**

S.No.	Tender Notice No.	Name of Work
1.	SA-SG-120-I-OT-01-2026	Salem Division-Signal and Telecommunication work in connection with various Track and allied engineering works over Salem Division.
2.	SA-SG-120-I-OT-03-2026	SALEM DIVISION: Provision of tools and equipments for implementation of SMMS, Painting of S&T assets, Fencing of critical locations and other reliability improvement works over Salem Division.

S.No.	Approximate Cost of the Work	Earnest Money Deposit	Cost of tender form including tax	Eligibility criteria for similar single work previously executed	Period of Completion in months
1.	24464291.52	489300.00	Nil	Applicable	12 months
2.	29582012.40	591700.00	Nil	Applicable	12 months

Tender closing date and time: 14/05/2026 at 15.00 hrs.
NOTE: Details of approximate value of tender, tender form cost, EMD & location are given on the e-portal, **"www.ireps.gov.in".**
For other details, terms and conditions, the tenderers are advised to refer to the Tender documents which are available at **"www.ireps.gov.in"** website.

Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/ Southern Railway/Salem - 636 005

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Palakkad Division
E-Tender Notice No. PGT/OT/08/2026 dated 24/04/2026
For and behalf of the President of India, the Sr. Divisional Engineer/Co-ordination / Southern Railway / Palakkad invites E-TENDERS for the following works.

Sl. No	Name of work	Approx. Cash value in (₹)Lakhs	Bid Security Amount ₹	Tender closing date on 15.00 hrs.	completion Period in months
1.	Senior Section Engineer/Permanent Way/Calicut section: Supply of experienced, conversant and medically fit men for outsourcing Monsoon patrolling duty. (During the monsoon for the year 2026-27)	13.39	26,800/-	19.05.2026	Nine
2.	Senior Section Engineer/Permanent Way/Quilandi section: Supply of experienced, conversant and medically fit men for outsourcing Monsoon patrolling duty. (During the monsoon for the year 2026-27)	13.68	27,400/-	19.05.2026	Eight
3.	Senior Section Engineer/Permanent Way/Kannur section: Supply of experienced, conversant and medically fit men for outsourcing Monsoon patrolling duty. (During the monsoon for the year 2026-27)	20.52	41,100/-	19.05.2026	Eight
4.	Senior Section Engineer/Permanent Way/Payyanur section: Supply of experienced, conversant and medically fit men for outsourcing Monsoon patrolling duty. (During the monsoon for the year 2026-27)	31.47	62,900/-	19.05.2026	Eight
5.	Senior Section Engineer/Permanent Way/Kasaragod section: Supply of experienced, conversant and medically fit men for outsourcing Monsoon patrolling duty. (During the monsoon for the year 2026-27)	28.73	57,500/-	19.05.2026	Eight
6.	Senior Section Engineer/Permanent Way/Mangalore section: Supply of experienced, conversant and medically fit men for outsourcing Monsoon patrolling duty. (During the monsoon for the year 2026-27)	34.20	68,400/-	19.05.2026	Eight
7.	Senior Section Engineer/Works/Kannur section: Cleaning of under ground sewage system, drainage & deweeding bushes, vegetations & trees in Rly Colonies and Stations premises and maintenance for a period of two years.	77.03	1,54,100/-	19.05.2026	Twenty Four
8.	Sr.Divisional Engineer/West Palakkad section: Proposed pre tamping and post tamping attentions between Shoranur-Mangalore section (Km 578.000-881.000 Up/Dn line) using Timble Gedo Vorsys trolley system on UP & DN lines (Phase 2)	105.20	2,10,400/-	26.05.2026	Twelve
9.	Palakkad Division -Sr. Divisional Engineer/West jurisdiction: TSR on P&C 64 Nos.	492.38	9,84,800/-	26.05.2026	Twelve
10.	Podanur Palakkad secnon:- Proposed extension of Br no.526 (3x4.57 m RCC slab) at km 495/413-430 in Madukkarai yard as RCC box	342.72	6,85,400/-	26.05.2026	Ten
11.	Divisional Engineer East Jurisdiction- Provision of new height Gauge at limited use subways in Senior Section Engineer/Permanent way/Kollengode section (22 nos).	277.70	5,55,400/-	26.05.2026	Twelve
12.	Shoranur-Nilambur Section Proposed Limited Use Subway (1x 4.0 x 4.15 m precast RCC Box) at km 15/500-600 between Kulukkallur and Cherukara stations (Deposit work for Kulukallur Grama Panchayat (Mapattukara)	262.56	5,25,100/-	26.05.2026	Twelve
13.	Outsourcing of Artizan staffs for regular maintenance works of service building, staff quarters and station buildings, etc. in Senior Section Engineer / Works / Shoranur section for a period of Two years.	36.74	73,500/-	19.05.2026	Twenty Four

1. All the contracts on Works/goods/services will be subject to the new GST Act as applicable from time to time.
2. Contractors/Suppliers have to register themselves with GST authorities and to furnish the GST registration number in order to process the bills from 01.7.2017 onwards.
3. For complete details of the above tenders please visit Web site **"http://www.ireps.gov.in."**

Note: It is the responsibility of the Tenderer to check any corrigendum issued for any correction or modifications uploaded subsequently in website; the same shall be taken in to account while submitting Tender.

Sr. Divisional Engineer/West/Southern Railway/Palakkad
(For and on behalf of the President of India)

From Page One

U.S. envoys not to travel to Pakistan, says Trump

Oil prices slid on Friday amid hopes that fresh peace talks would see an end to Tehran's disruption of trade through the strait.

European Council President Antonio Costa said the strait "must immediately reopen without restrictions and without tolling". "This is vital for the entire world," Mr. Costa said.

On Thursday, Mr. Trump announced a three-week ceasefire extension in Lebanon and spoke in glowing terms of peace prospects for the country after meeting with Israeli and Lebanese envoys.

But Mohammed Raad, the head of the parliamentary bloc for Hezbollah, urged the Lebanese government to withdraw from direct talks with Israel and warned that a lasting peace deal of the kind sought by Mr. Trump "will in no way enjoy Lebanese national consensus".

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has vowed to destroy Hezbollah, said: "We have started a process to reach a historic peace between Israel and Lebanon, and it's clear to us that Hezbollah is trying to sabotage this."

Despite the ceasefire, Lebanon's health ministry said Israeli strikes on Saturday in the Nabatieh district of the south of the country had killed four people.

March to Manipur CM's house foiled; 22 injured

Two more people were injured in the restive Ukhrul district when an armoured vehicle of a paramilitary force rammed the barricades put up by locals at Talui village. People in the Naga-majority district have been protesting the inaction against Kuki armed groups allegedly behind attacks on Naga civilians.

The Working Committee of Tangkhul Naga Long, an apex community-based organisation, stated that the condition of one of the injured was critical. The village women had set up the barricades to frisk vehicles in the light of the ongoing Kuki-Naga violence in parts of the district.

Another Naga organisation, the Voice of the Naga Youth, accused the paramilitary Assam Rifles of assisting, shielding, transporting, and providing military uniforms to the Kuki extremists who attacked Naga villagers near Mullam village in Ukhrul district on Friday.

AAP seeks action against MPs who joined BJP

Mr. Singh said their defection was "entirely illegal, incorrect, unconstitutional, and against parliamentary rules".

Senior AAP leader Saurabh Bharadwaj said the party was going through a difficult time with the party losing power in Delhi, leaders being jailed and ED raids against its leaders.

"In such circumstances, some people are bound to leave," Mr. Bharadwaj said. He added that the AAP was built by ordinary workers and remains a party of ordinary workers with many leaders who have come and gone.

Addressing party workers, Mr. Bharadwaj asked them not to lose their morale said that tough questions are no longer asked of the government, and its shortcomings are not highlighted. "There is only praise and glorification of Prime Minister Narendra Modi everywhere. The government is troubled by those who continue to ask questions. We must not be afraid," Mr. Bharadwaj said.

Israel flies out 240 from Mizoram amid war scare

Official sources said that while India's advisory on the prevailing security risk in Israel exists, Israeli agencies managed to proceed with the operation, as it is a religious process that they have established.

Members of the Bnei Menashe have also been taken to Israel in multiple batches over the previous two decades.

According to *The Jerusalem Post* report, the new arrivals would be settled in Kiryat Yam, a suburb near Haifa.

The group arrived at Ben Gurion Airport under an initiative spearheaded by the Aliyah and Integration Ministry and JAFI. They are expected to be settled in the northern part of Israel, which has been in recent months targeted by Hezbollah. The rest of the community members are expected to leave in the coming days.

Operation Wings of Dawn is the result of a decision made by Mr. Netanyahu, Minister of Aliyah and Integration, Ofir Sofer and Minister of Finance Bezalel Smotrich to complete the immigration of the rest of the Bnei Menashe community from Mizoram and Manipur.

The departure of the individuals from Mizoram has brought attention to the fact that since February 28, when the U.S.-Israel war against Iran started, the Government of India has maintained a travel advisory for Indian nationals in Israel pointing at the "prevailing security situation in the region", indicating the high risk condition persisting in the country that has faced missile attacks from Iran as well as Lebanon's pro-Iran militia Hezbollah.

U.S. sanctions waiver on Chabahar ends

With Washington ruling out an extension of the sanctions waiver on Iranian oil, India faces a choice between continuing its role at Chabahar port and risking penalties or scaling back; officials say a transfer of the IPGL subsidiary's stake to an Iranian firm is being explored to navigate sanctions

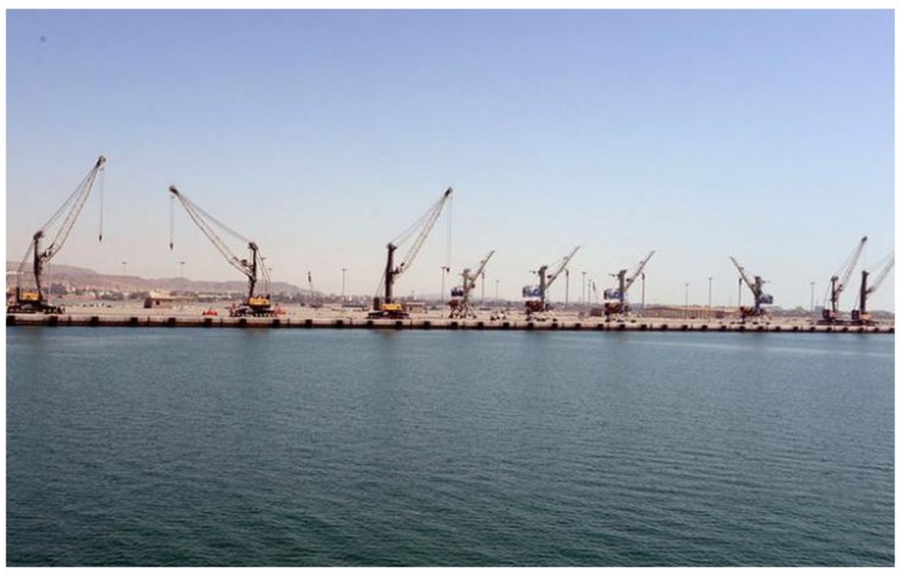
Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

As the U.S. sanctions waiver for Iran's Chabahar port ends on Sunday, the government faces a major test in strategic autonomy, as it may have to choose between exiting the 23-year-old port project or facing American sanctions.

Officials of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) have been holding talks with U.S. counterparts on the issue since October 2025, when Washington extended the waiver for six months until April 26, 2026, to give India time to "wind down" the project. Given the U.S.-Iran war and a series of U.S. measures targeting Iran under the U.S. Treasury's "Operation Economic Fury", officials said they were not hopeful of another extension.

On Friday, U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent made it clear that Washington would not extend the waiver of sanctions on the purchase of Iranian oil that expired on April 19.

"Not the Iranian [sanctions]," Mr. Bessent said, according to the Associated Press. "We have the blockade, and there's no oil coming out." "And we think in the next two, three days, they're going to have to start shuttering production, which will be very bad for their wells," he said, outlining the U.S. strategy to squeeze Iran's heavily sanctioned economy further.


In 2016, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had travelled to Tehran and signed a trilateral agreement among India, Iran and Afghanistan to operationalise the Chabahar route. FILE PHOTO

As a result, the government has been exploring a number of other options to minimise its exposure to American sanctions. Since November 2025, the government has withdrawn all its personnel from Chabahar, prepaid its investment commitment of $120 million, and is now considering transferring its stake in the Shahid Beheshti Terminal at Chabahar to an Iranian company, leaving the option of returning at a later date.

Transfer of stake

On Saturday, an official confirmed that the transfer of the stake owned by India Ports Global Chabahar Free Zone (IPGCFZ), a wholly owned subsidiary of India Ports Global Limited (IPGL), to a local company was under discussion, but had not been effected yet.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, former Ambassador to Iran Gaddam Dharmendra called the plan to transfer India's stake a "tactical workaround", given "increasingly difficult and chaotic U.S. decisions" impacting India-Iran ties.

"In enlisting a local partner, [India is] not actually exiting a strategic project but safeguarding India's interests on a project of tremendous long-term importance. It's equally important that the Iranians should know that we remain vested in this critical bilateral project," he added, pointing out that India's other regional infrastructure project IMEC (India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor) is also unlikely to "take shape any time soon", given the fractures within the Gulf countries, enhancing Chabahar's importance.

Although the original Chabahar port agreement between India and Iran was signed in 2003, U.S. sanctions have consistently slowed down progress on the major connectivity project from India through Iran to Afghanistan and Central Asia, while circumventing transit hurdles from Pakistan.

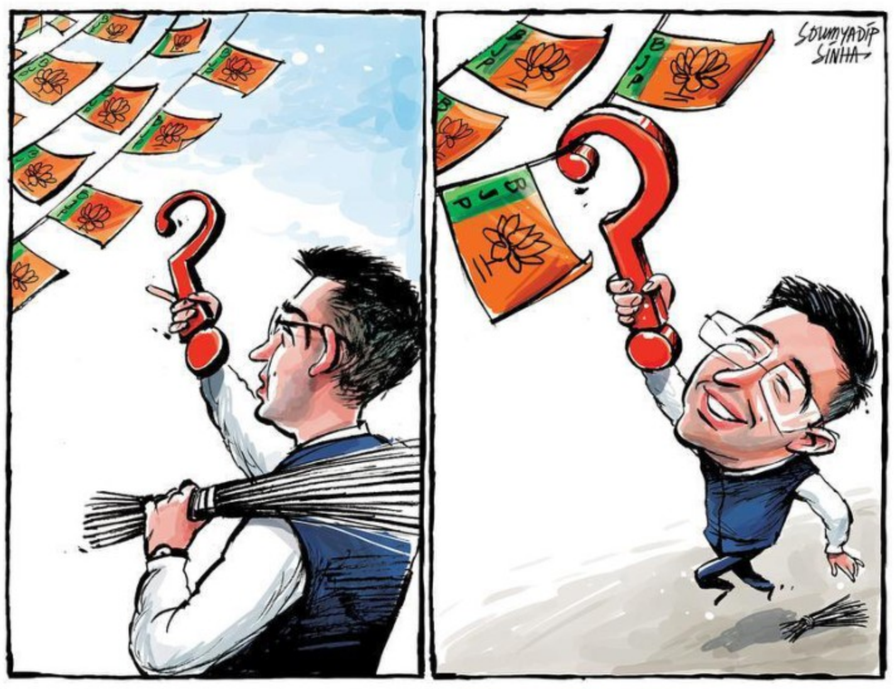
In 2016, Prime Minister Narendra Modi travelled to Tehran and signed a trilateral agreement among India, Iran and Afghanistan to operationalise the Chabahar route with ambitions to develop the port, as well as a road project and railway line from Chabahar-Zahedan over the Afghan border.

In 2018, the U.S. agreed to a "carve-out" exception for India to use the route to send food and aid to Afghanistan, but subsequently changed policy, mounting pressure on India to curtail ties with Iran, including oil imports, trade, and the Chabahar port. In 2019, the U.S. introduced sanctions to curb steel trade as well, which disrupted India's plans to provide rolling stock (coaches), tracks, switching and signalling equipment, and after several delays, Iran dropped India from the railway project. In May 2024, the government tried to re-energise the project, signing a 10-year agreement with the Iranian government to develop the port.

However, on February 4, 2025, U.S. President Donald Trump issued the National Security Presidential Memorandum (NSPM-2) that mandated the U.S. Secretary of State to "modify or rescind sanctions waivers, particularly those that provide Iran any degree of economic or financial relief, including those related to Iran's Chabahar port project".

The order made it clear, long before the war in West Asia began, that Washington expected New Delhi to shut down its involvement in the Chabahar project, which was decades in the making, and is now at a dead end.

On the draw



Didn't hold any secret meeting with Uddhav, says Fadnavis

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

Maharashtra Chief Minister and BJP leader Devendra Fadnavis on Saturday denied reports that he held a "secret meeting" with Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray. He said the party will send legal notices to the social media handles that aired such reports without any verification.

The Shiv Sena (UBT) is a key constituent of the Opposition alliance, the Maha Vikas Aghadi.

Speaking to reporters in Tryambakeshwar, Mr. Fadnavis said: "There is no reason to have a secret meeting with Uddhav Thackeray. We can meet openly. People deliberately give false information these days."

Devendra Fadnavis

Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut said only the two leaders can answer the question. "Why should I give information, even if I have it?... So much is slated to happen in politics. I don't want to discuss everything," he said.

Shiv Sena (UBT) media in-charge Harshal Pradhan denied the report. "There is no need for Uddhav Thackeray to hold secret meetings with Devendra Fadnavis past midnight. He does not have the hobby of leaving his house in a hoodie," he said, in a reference to the alleged secret meetings Mr. Fadnavis used to hold by changing his attire.

Rahul seeks probe into death of girl in Ghazipur in U.P.

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

A war of words erupted on Saturday over the death of a girl hailing from the Vishwakarma community in Ghazipur district of Uttar Pradesh with the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, demanding a high-level investigation.

Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav sought justice for the family.

"The rape and brutal murder of a daughter of the Vishwakarma community in Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh and then threats and violence to prevent the family from filing an FIR. Hathras, Kathua, Unnao, and today Ghazipur – it's a pattern. A daughter from Manipur died waiting for justice. Every time the same face – the victim is Dalit, backward, tribal, poor. Same truth every time – protection to the criminal, harassment to the victim. Every time the same silence – of those in power, those who should have spoken... Action should be taken against the guilty police officers, the family should be given security, a high-level investigation should be conducted, and justice should be delivered immediately," Mr. Gandhi wrote on *X*.

Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra alleged that atrocities against women in Uttar Pradesh reached its peak under the BJP rule.

The SP president said, "This is a new trend under the BJP government: first, the dominant ruling party commits and instigates atrocities, and then pressures the victim to change their statement... The governance and administration of BJP is going through its worst phase."

The BJP accused the Opposition of attempting to tarnish the image of the government. "Appropriate action has been taken in the incident as per rules and provisions of law... Opposition parties like the SP and Congress want to create division on the line of caste and religion through these incidents and tarnish the image of the State government," said Basit Ali, president of the BJP Minority Morcha.

In 'strategy' meetings, new Bihar CM pays regular visits to Nitish Kumar

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

In the 10 days since taking over as the Chief Minister of Bihar, Samrat Choudhary has paid four visits to 1 Anne Marg, where his predecessor, Nitish Kumar, resides at present. The latest was on Saturday.

BJP sources said it was not merely a courtesy visit but a political strategy to send a message to the supporters of Mr. Kumar that the BJP still has the same respect towards the former Chief Minister as it used to when he was leading the State.

The meetings reinforce what Mr. Choudhary and other BJP leaders had earlier maintained – that the State will continue to develop under Mr. Kumar's guidance.

Bihar CM Samrat Choudhary, JD(U) national chief Nitish Kumar, and Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh in Patna on Saturday. ANI

Visits to continue

Party sources said the meetings will continue for a few months before things return to normal in the State. "Soon after the formation of the new government, if the new CM stops meeting Nitish*ji*, then it will send a wrong message, and rumours may start. So, to avoid any such circumstances, he has taken special care over this issue and ensures that he meets him as many times as possible," a senior BJP leader told *The Hindu*.

"If the CM does not have time and is occupied in other work, he makes sure to call him and ask about his well-being. If you look at it this way, then not a single day has gone by when both leaders have not interacted with each other," the leader added.

Following Mr. Kumar's resignation as Chief Minister on April 14, Mr. Choudhary first met him at the oath-taking ceremony at Lok Bhaban on April 15, and visited him again that evening.

After a two-day gap, he visited on April 18, 22 and 25 in the presence of Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh, aka Lalan Singh.

Political strategy

Whenever Mr. Choudhary visits there, he spends at least half an hour with him. Moreover, after the revelation of Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Choudhary during the floor test on April 24, regarding what made Mr. Kumar pass the baton to the BJP in the form of Mr. Choudhary, the meetings may increase in the days to come.

During the floor test, when the Opposition alleged that the post of Chief Minister was snatched from Mr. Kumar and he was forcibly sent to the Rajya Sabha, Mr. Vijay replied to them.

"Several times Nitish*ji* told us that BJP showed a big heart by offering him to continue in the post of CM when BJP won 74 seats, and Janata Dal (United) 43. It is not easy for anyone to sacrifice power in one go, but our leader did it, saying that he wanted to give them the opportunity after ruling the State for 20 years. History will remember him. The Opposition is not happy because they were not able to digest the seamless transition of power," Mr. Vijay said.

Several JD(U) leaders have taken Mr. Choudhary's actions positively. "It was due to the veto of Mr. Kumar that he became the CM, keeping aside several BJP and RSS background leaders. We would be happy if he continues to do so till he remains in the top post," a JD(U) functionary said.

Poll body suspends five police officials in West Bengal

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

The Election Commission (EC) has ordered the suspension of five police officials at Diamond Harbour and deployed 11 new police observers across the State even as the ruling Trinamool Congress alleged strongroom breaches as allegations of non-functioning CCTV cameras emerged following the first phase polling in the Assembly election.

The Trinamool leadership filed multiple complaints raising strongroom camera issues from Ghatal, Patashpur, Cooch Behar, and Jangipur areas. Multiple candidates of the ruling party alleged that CCTV cameras were switched off for a few hours at night, raising security concerns about the transparency of the electronic voting machines (EVMs) stored in the strongrooms.

However, West Bengal's Chief Electoral Officer, Manoj Kumar Agarwal, said that immediate action has been taken wherever the live feed of strongroom cameras failed.

Modi's swipe at Jadavpur University sparks war of words with Mamata

After the PM calls the varsity a 'hotbed of anarchy' at a poll campaign, the West Bengal CM retorts, saying it is 'democracy in motion' at the high-ranking institute; she defends students' right to question authority and says 'bulldozer politics' is anarchy

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's comments calling Kolkata's premier education institute Jadavpur University (JU) a hotbed of anarchy have sparked a massive political row amid the Assembly election. Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was quick to defend the university and its students, and called it "democracy in motion."

During a poll campaign in the Jadavpur Assembly constituency on Friday, Mr. Modi said that once the varsity was respected globally and was established on a foundation of "nationalism".

"Now there are threats inside the campus. They are writing anti-national slogans on the walls, and students are forced to hold protests on the roads rather than focusing on their education. We do not want anarchy here, we want an academic environment," Mr. Modi said.

Poll campaign: Prime Minister Narendra Modi being garlanded at the Vijay Sankalp rally in Jadavpur, Kolkata, on Friday. ANI

The Prime Minister questioned whether the Mamata Banerjee government, which could not "save" this premium institute, would be able to "save the future" of the State.

To this, Ms. Banerjee pointed out that since its establishment, the JU has always ranked high among national and international educational institutes, including in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) brought out by the Union government.

Though Ms. Banerjee herself has had a turbulent relationship with the JU and she herself has been criticised by the students on several occasions, she was quick to come out in defence of the varsity after Mr. Modi's comments.

"Is this the way how you describe the meritorious students of the esteemed Jadavpur University? The students of Jadavpur University have earned their place through merit and walk out with degrees, with intellect, and with the ability to question. That is not anarchy. That is education and that is excellence," Ms. Banerjee countered the Prime Minister on her social media handles.

She said what Mr. Modi had called anarchy was actually democracy in motion, and defended the students' rights to ask questions to authorities.

The Trinamool Congress chairperson said "bulldozer" politics was anarchy, dividing the country on religious lines was anarchy, and refusing to face the press was anarchy among other reasons.

Later in the day during a poll rally, Ms. Banerjee also said that student society must protest against Mr. Modi's attack on the JU.

"Questioning is the very foundation of learning, and at our university, it is not only encouraged but embedded as an essential part of its academic culture and intellectual tradition. Dismissing the university's value not only undermines the efforts of its scholars and teachers but also reflects a lack of awareness about its achievements," a current Ph.D. scholar at JU said.

She further added that hearing such uninformed remarks from the top leader of the country is not only disappointing but also concerning.

The JU stoood ninth in the NIRF, 2025 ranking among universities across India and was the only State university to make it to the top 10.

It ranked first in the State public universities category and ranked 18th in the overall category.

Real battle in Bengal is between Congress and BJP, says Rahul

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Rahul Gandhi

The Congress leader and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Saturday joined the last leg of the party's election campaign in West Bengal. He said the electoral contest was between the BJP and the Congress, and not the Trinamool Congress. He addressed three public meetings in Kolkata and Hooghly.

Addressing a meeting at Metiabruz in Kolkata, Mr. Gandhi reiterated that the Congress was committed to fighting the BJP and the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

"I am not scared of Narendra Modi. If anyone is scared, it is Narendra Modi... I was interrogated for 55 hours; there are 36 cases against me. I am speaking because I am on bail or else I would be in jail. Have they ever interrogated Mamata*ji*? Because they know that the real enemy is not Mamata*ji*, the real enemy of the BJP is Rahul Gandhi," he said. "What Narendra Modi has done in the country, Mamata*ji* did in the State," Mr. Gandhi said. Citing several scams, including the Saradha chit fund scam and Rose Valley scam, the Congress leader said that West Bengal had witnessed industrial decline, and faces a crisis of unemployment.

"Modi*ji* has done nothing for the people. He works for two, three industrialists. Here, Mamata*ji* is doing the same. She has finished the industries. There is no employment. To get a job in Bengal, you have to be a relative of a Trinamool leader," he said.

"If Mamata*ji* had worked properly for the State and not been corrupt, there would have been no risk of the BJP coming to power in the State," he added.

'BJP will form government on its own strength this time in West Bengal'

The party's growth will continue in the State, its rise has been due to lack of policy direction or real development under the Trinamool regime, says the vice-president of its State unit; before SIR, the 2021 Assembly polls and 2024 LS polls were held with a flawed voter list and large-scale rigging, adds the former Trinamool Minister; Mamata has institutionalised corruption across sectors, he says

INTERVIEW

Tapas Roy

Shiv Sahay Singh
Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

Tapas Roy, vice-president of the West Bengal unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), is contesting the Manikala Assembly seat in Kolkata. A former Trinamool Minister, Mr. Roy quit the party in 2024 ahead of the Lok Sabha election. With five decades of experience in electoral politics, he says the BJP will form the government on its own strength and that after the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), seats in Kolkata will spring a surprise. Edited excerpts from interview:

You served as chairman of the BJP's manifesto drafting committee. What are the highlights of the party's 2026 Assembly poll manifesto?

The drafting committee consisted of 11 members. We collected public opinions through websites, WhatsApp, letter boxes, and prepared the manifesto based on what people wanted.

For the past 15 years, and even before, there has been little real development under either the Left front or the Trinamool Congress. In the Trinamool regime, whatever little development has happened has served the interests of the Banerjee family and a small circle of leaders, mostly in pockets of South Kolkata... This manifesto aims to take development to a broader population.

The BJP has promised to double the cash incentive for women to ₹3,000 a month. Is this move aimed at countering the Lakshmir Bhandar scheme?

We are not trying to counter any scheme. Whatever benefits people receive from the Centre or State will continue, but we will double the amount, from ₹1,500 to ₹3,000 per month. We will also ensure free travel for women on government buses and provide ₹21,000 to pregnant women. We will also improve infrastructure such as roads, bridges and ports across the State.

How do you view the rise of the BJP over the past decade in the State and what are its chances in 2026?

The BJP's growth will continue in West Bengal. Its rise has been due to lack of policy directions or real development under the Trinamool regime. There have been atrocities against women and repeated attacks on Hinduism.

The Chief Minister and her party leaders are indulging in appeasement politics to retain their vote bank, and this has created anger among people.

Infiltration has also increased, posing a threat to internal security and sovereignty. Mamata Banerjee's one-point agenda is to remain in power at any cost.

You left the Trinamool citing corruption. What kind of corruption are you referring to?

The Trinamool has created a certain kind of party workers whose job is to collect money for the party. For admissions to colleges and universities, one has to pay money.

Even if someone is eligible to be a teacher or a government employee, they will not get the job.

We have seen this in the teachers' recruitment scam. There is a direct involvement of Mamta Banerjee, and she has institutionalised corruption across sectors. This was one of the biggest reasons behind why I left the party.

The Trinamool tries to project the BJP as a party of outsiders. Do you think with leaders like Suvendu [Adhikari] and you, who have had a significant political career in other parties, the outsider tag still hold?

We are Indians and Bengalis, living under one Constitution. This 'outsider' narrative has no basis. The Chief Minister raises identity issues only when it suits her politics.

If she speaks of outsiders, she should also explain why many of her party leaders who are not from Bengal have been given prominence – people like Saket Gokhale, Yusuf Pathan, Rajeev Kumar, Meneka Guruswamy, and Kirti Azad have been sent to the Rajya Sabha or given Lok Sabha seats. Was there a shortage of candidates from Bengal? She [Mamata] is a great liar.

Can the BJP reach the magic figure of 150 seats to form the government on its own?

This time, the BJP is forming the government in West Bengal on its own strength. The 2021 Assembly elections and the 2024 Lok Sabha polls were held before the SIR, with what we believe was a flawed voter list, and there was large-scale rigging.

From 2013 to the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, the voting process was severely compromised because of an impure voter list.

This time, people who could not cast their votes earlier – including some Trinamool supporters – will vote against Mamata Banerjee.

With nearly 90 lakh names struck off the electoral rolls, what impact will the SIR have on the elections? Will the Trinamool gain any sympathy votes?

About 4.47 lakh names were deleted from the Kolkata North area. If genuine voters had been excluded, there would have been large-scale protests at the Brigade Parade ground.

There is no sympathy for Mamata Banerjee this time – neither after the R.G. Kar incident nor after the killings of Hargobinda Das and Chandan Das [in 2025 Murshidabad riots].

Defections expose fault lines in AAP ahead of upcoming Punjab election

NEWS ANALYSIS

Vikas Vasudeva
CHANDIGARH

With the 2027 Punjab Assembly election just months away, the exit of seven Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MPs, six of them from the State, is likely to leave the party considerably weakened, even as its bid to gain sympathy by branding the defectors as traitors may offer little electoral consolation.

On Friday, AAP Rajya Sabha members Raghav Chadha, Sandeep Pathak, Ashok Mittal, Harbhajan Singh, Rajinder Gupta, Vikram Sahney, and Swati Maliwal quit the AAP to join the BJP.

The following day, several AAP workers in Punjab vented their anger against the defectors by staging protests outside their residences and offices, describing them as "traitors".

Former comrades: Raghav Chadha with AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal during a protest in Delhi in 2016. PTI

The timing of the AAP MPs' exit from the party is as damaging as the defection itself. The Punjab Assembly election is due in early 2027, in the run-up to which the party has been showcasing the fulfilment of the poll guarantees it made in 2022, and claiming it will form the next government in the State.

The exit of six MPs from the State at this juncture sends out the contradictory and damaging message that those closest to the party did not believe in it.

The defection has also brought factionalism and power struggles within the AAP to the fore, dismantling the carefully cultivated image of a united party which could weaken the party's electoral prospects.

"The exit of the AAP MPs is definitely going to adversely affect the party. It could have repercussions even in the Aam Aadmi Legislature Party in Punjab amid the squabbles, the differences of opinion, and [allegations that] some leaders were not getting their due. The AAP now will feel weakened," Kehar Singh, former head of the Department of Political Science at Punjabi University, said.

On the party branding the defectors as "traitors", he said the party stood little chance of generating meaningful public sympathy for it.

"The AAP is not going to win any sympathy from Punjabis on this front – that the defection by its MPs is 'betrayal'. It is not going to cut much ice with the people. The reason is simple – the AAP was playing this very game earlier in Punjab. They have been winning over candidates from other political parties and fielding them to win elections [byelections]. So on that count, I don't think they have any moral ground to attack others. The AAP is not going to get much benefit out of it because of its own track record," Mr. Singh said.

Meant to protect free speech, 'merger' now a defence for joining rival camp

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Raghav Chadha, six other ex-AAP MPs assert legitimacy by terming their joining the BJP a 'merger'

Parliament designed "merger" with another party as a defence against the misuse of anti-defection law to stifle intra-party dissent and freedom of expression of legislators. Rajya Sabha member Raghav Chadha and six other former Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MPs have claimed "merger" while joining the BJP.

Paragraph 2(1)(a) of the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution stipulates that members belonging to "any political party" will be disqualified from the House for defection if they voluntarily give up membership of the party. The explanation to Paragraph 2 provides that a legislator is deemed to belong to the political party that set him up as a candidate for polls.

The seven MPs, who form two-thirds of the AAP Legislature Party, have asserted legitimacy by terming their action a "merger" with the BJP. In a post on X said, Mr. Chadha said "exercising the provisions of the Constitution, more than two-thirds of the AAP MPs in the Rajya Sabha have merged with BJP".

Twin test

However, Paragraph 4 of the Tenth Schedule sets down a twin test for a valid merger. The first condition is that there must be a merger of the original party with another party. The second is that after the merger, two-thirds of its members should agree to, and adopt, such a merger. In short, the act of merger has to originate from the original political party. A group of legislators cannot cite merger to ward off anti-defection proceedings.

A 2023 Constitution Bench judgment in *Subhash Desai versus Principal Secretary, Governor of Maharashtra* confirmed that the "original political party" and the "legislature party" were "distinguishable concepts" under the Tenth Schedule. The distinction between the two was neither artificial nor intertwined. Paragraph 1(b) of the Tenth Schedule defined "legislature party" as a group of members who belong to a particular party and Paragraph 1(c) construed an "original political party" as the party to which the members belonged to.

The judgment said the Tenth Schedule recognised the independent existence of a legislature party only to the limited extent of presenting a defence for members who backed a merger or split (the latter was omitted as a defence in 2003) initiated by the original political party, against bulk disqualification action.

The Supreme Court is examining a petition filed by Goa Congress leader Girish Chodankar, who has argued "mergers of State legislature party in Opposition led by the Leader of Opposition are not only a Constitutional sin but also amount to a direct attack on the democratic set-up of an Assembly".

The petition, filed by advocate Muhammad Ali Khan, challenges a Bombay High Court decision of January 16, 2025. The court had accepted the Goa Congress legislators' shift to the BJP in 2022 as a valid "merger". Mr. Chodankar has argued that "anomalous situations" would arise if the original political party was left to the mercy of the "whimsical musings of the majority members of a less conspicuous legislature party".

INBRIEF

Use knowledge as a tool, be job creators: Vice-President

Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan on Saturday called upon the youth to use their knowledge as a tool for progress and take on the role of job creators and nation builders. "The true measure of education lies in its application for the betterment of society, innovation and ethical conduct," Mr. Radhakrishnan said. The Vice-President was addressing the 35th convocation ceremony of Rajasthan University in Jaipur in the presence of its Chancellor and Governor, Haribhau Bagade. He urged the graduates to contribute meaningfully to society, uphold compassion, respect diversity, and work towards the greater good.

It was unwarranted to quote me: ex-Army chief Naravane

Former Army chief General Manoj Naravane has come out with two books since his unpublished memoir, *Four Stars of Destiny*, caused a controversy earlier this year and looking back, he said it was "not warranted" to unnecessarily quote and drag him into the limelight. The General, in an interview, said that he has moved on since then, having written two books and a third to be released soon. "As far as I am concerned, the matter rested there, and I have moved on... unnecessarily quoting me and dragging the unpublished book into the limelight and indirectly me to the limelight was I think not warranted," he said. PTI

SC surprised on currency notes destroyed by rodents

The Supreme Court has expressed surprise that currency notes, which were allegedly seized from the possession of an accused in a corruption case lodged in Bihar, were destroyed by rodents. A Bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and K.V. Viswanathan, said, "We wonder how many such currency notes recovered in this type of offence get destroyed, as they are not kept in a safe place. It's a huge revenue loss for the State." The issue cropped up before the Bench while hearing a plea filed by a woman who was serving as a child development programme officer in 2014 and was convicted and sentenced to four years' imprisonment in a corruption case. PTI

Avalanche hits highway to Ladakh, vehicles stranded

A snow avalanche on Saturday hit the Kashmir-Ladakh National Highway (NH-1) and left many vehicles stranded. One driver was reportedly missing after the avalanche. Snow sheaths started sliding into a major avalanche in the afternoon at Shaitan Nallah, which connects Sonamarg in the Kashmir Valley with Drass in Ladakh. Several vehicles were hit by the avalanche and forced the closure of traffic on the highway. A rescue and relief operation has been launched. "Commuters stuck on the highway were shifted to safer locations and vehicles are being retrieved," officials said.The area has seen fresh snowfall in recent times.

SUDOKU

	7	8	9				6	2
6		9						
	2		6		1			
	9	6					8	
			1		4			
	3					6	5	
			3		5		2	
						7		8
7	1				2	5	4	

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	9	6	2	8	5	3	4	1
5	4	2	3	7	1	9	6	8
8	3	1	6	4	9	7	2	5
6	5	9	8	1	7	2	3	4
4	8	3	5	2	6	1	9	7
2	1	7	4	9	3	8	5	6
1	6	8	9	3	4	5	7	2
3	2	4	7	5	8	6	1	9
9	7	5	1	6	2	4	8	3

Count the vulnerable: Census chief

Registrar-General Mritunjay Kumar Narayan asks officials to ensure that such sections of people, including those affected by communal, political and social tensions, are counted as any omission may lead to litigation in future; information on demolition and new constructions is be noted, he adds

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Registrar-General and Census Commissioner, Mritunjay Kumar Narayan, has asked the State directorates to identify and prepare a list of villages, habitats, and sections of the population vulnerable to "threat, intimidation or interference" during the ongoing Census exercise.

The Commissioner asked the States to avoid enumerators who may be biased towards specific social or religious communities as far as possible as their appointment for fieldwork could prove counter-productive.

In an April 20 communication to the Directorate of Census Operations, Mr. Narayan asked officials to ensure that vulnerable sections of people, which include those affected by communal, political, and social tensions, are counted as any omission may lead to litigation in future.

Earlier this week, three members of a family were arrested in Dhenkanal, Odisha, for allegedly attacking four teachers when they went to the house for Census fieldwork.

A central support helpline, 1855, for queries or guidance related to the first phase of the Census, House Listing Operations (HLO), has been launched. The Census is being conducted in two phases – HLO and Population Enumeration.

The first phase will be conducted from April 1 to September 30 in phases for all States. The second phase, which will also count caste, will be carried out in February 2027. This is the first digital Census and the first to allow self-enumeration.

Risk assessment

The charge officers, who are in charge of field operations, have been asked to prepare the list by touring the areas extensively and in consultation with the local village officials, police or block development officials.

"They should identify the source of such threat/intimidation and identify the names of persons who are likely to spearhead such offence of undue influence. While doing this exercise they shall take into account both the past incidents and the current apprehensions," Mr. Narayan said.

Counting on: The States are directed to avoid enumerators who may be biased towards any community. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

He added that a plan should be ready to cover areas which were difficult to access, such as forest villages and hamlets.

"Similarly, every district would have people who are difficult to be enumerated. Such groups would include people who are highly mobile/floating population like migrant labour, those engaged in occupations like herding of sheep/cattle and such other nomadic tribes, gatherers of forest produce, seafarers who are likely to be absent during the entire period of enumeration, homeless people, street children, people living in areas affected by some form of social/political tension, etc.," Mr. Narayan said.

The Commissioner said that if a population had now started living in villages that were uninhabited during the previous Census, then they were to be enumerated without omission.

"At the same time, the information about the areas where demolition has taken place or new residential constructions have come up or otherwise major construction activities such as road works, irrigation dams, etc. are in execution should also be available. Special efforts are required to enumerate people residing in such areas," the letter said.

Teachers on duty

Elaborating on the role of enumerators, the letter stated that the Right to Education (RTE) Act has specifically allowed the use of teachers in Census activity and they may be appointed enumerators/supervisors in the first preference.

"In case of shortage of teachers, other officials of the government and local bodies are to be appointed as Census personnel. The officials appointed should preferably be from the local area and should be familiar with local conditions. However, if there is a situation on ground which suggests that a local would act in a biased manner and this would affect the Census, the PCO (Principal Charge Officer) should appoint persons from outside the area. However, pregnant ladies, persons with severe chronic ailments, severe disabilities, persons below matriculate, persons biased towards specific social/religious communities, etc., may be avoided to the extent possible as appointing them for fieldwork would be difficult/counter-productive," it said. Pointing out that the details once recorded cannot be altered at a later stage, he said that in the past, some of the District Magistrates had approached the Census organisation with the plea that the Census enumeration had not been carried out properly in their districts and that the situation may be rectified.

No restriction on women's entry into mosques to offer namaz, AIMPLB informs Supreme Court

Ziya Us Salam
NEW DELHI

In a significant upshot for Muslim women seeking permission to offer prayers inside mosques, the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB) has admitted before the Supreme Court that there is no restriction in Islam on women entering mosques to offer namaz.

Senior advocate M.R. Shamshad, appearing for the Board, made the submission before a nine-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant hearing the Sabarimala reference case, with related petitions on women's entry into mosques tagged to the case as they too involve constitutional

questions with respect to Articles 25 and 26.

The question of the right of women to enter mosques stemmed from a PIL petition filed in March 2019 by a Pune-based couple, Yasmeen Zuber Ahmad and her husband, Zuber Ahmad Nazir Ahmad Peerzade.

The couple had requested the Mohmidiya Jama Masjid in Pune to allow women entry to offer prayers. However, the request was denied following which Ms. Yasmeen approached the Supreme Court seeking relief under the writ of mandamus.

Broad agreement

In the ongoing case, Mr. Shamshad said Islamic practice does not bar women from entering mosques, though their participation in congregational prayers is not mandatory.

Asked by the Chief Justice of India on whether women were allowed to enter a mosque, Mr. Shamshad said there was broad agreement across Islamic denominations on this point.

"The Prophet himself said, 'Don't stop women coming to the mosque.' There is clarity on this," he said.

The senior advocate pointed out that while it is essential for men to attend congregational prayers in the mosque, women had a choice. They were exempted, not prohibited. "For a woman, it is preferable that she stays at home and prays, and she gets the same religious reward. But if a woman wants to come, she can come," he said.

"Since there is no sanctum sanctorum inside the mosque, nobody can insist to stand at a particular place or, for that matter, to be the first to lead the namaz," he said. However, he pointed out that there is a certain procedure and "certain discipline that has to be followed" inside the premises of a mosque.

No insistence

Mr. Shamshad said that while Islam does not bar women from visiting mosques, they cannot insist on entering through the main door or demand the removal of physical barriers separating men and women inside mosques.

There are separate halls for men and women in Islamic places of pilgrimage at Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia. Women participate in five daily prayers besides the Friday prayers. They perform Haj too. In India, mosques are designed keeping in mind only men with almost no attention paid to women worshippers.

Cong. attacks RSS, Modi over Madhav's comments on India-U.S. ties

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, citing a recent statement by former BJP general secretary and key RSS functionary Ram Madhav on India-United States relations, took aim at the saffron outfit saying it has become "Rashtriya Surrender Sangh". In a social media post on Saturday, Mr. Gandhi said Mr. Madhav had revealed the RSS's "fake nationalism and the nature of servitude to the U.S."

"Rashtriya Surrender Sangh. Farzi nationalism in Nagpur. Pure servility in the USA. Ram Madhav has only revealed Sangh's true nature," Mr. Gandhi posted on X.

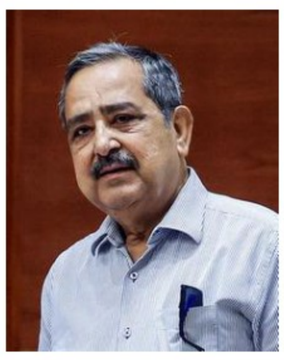
After his video came out that India agreed to stop buying oil from Iran and Russia, Mr. Madhav issued an apology, and said his statement was incorrect. "What I said was wrong. India did not agree to stopping import of oil from Russia anytime. Also it vigorously protested 50% tariff imposition. I was trying to make a limited counterpoint to the other panellist. But factually incorrect. My apologies," Mr. Madhav said.

Earlier, the RSS leader had said the decision not to buy oil from Iran and Russia had invited criticism from the Opposition. "We agreed to a 50% tariff... Agreed means we did not say anything. We maintained our patience. 50% tariffs we agreed. Today, in the new trade deal also we agreed for 18% tariffs, higher than what it used to be... I mean, average tariff," Mr. Madhav had said earlier.

Congress general secretary K.C. Venugopal, citing Mr. Madhav's comments, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had lost his authority to continue in the post. "There was once a time when the U.S. 7th Fleet was in the Bay of Bengal, and India didn't budge. And then there is today, where a compromised PM has handed over India's sovereignty to the U.S.," Mr. Venugopal said.

Ashok Lahiri is new NITI Aayog Vice-Chairperson

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI



Ashok Kumar Lahiri

The Union government appointed Ashok Kumar Lahiri, economist and MLA in West Bengal, Vice-Chairperson of the NITI Aayog on Saturday.

Mr. Lahiri, a former Chief Economic Adviser to the government, replaces Suman K. Bery, who has been the Vice-Chairperson of the government's think-tank since May 2022.

Economist K.V. Raju, Director of AIIMS M. Srinivas, Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology Abhay Karandikar, scientist Gobardhan Das, and former Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba are the full-time members on the re-constituted panel.

Mr. Gauba was a member of the outgoing panel as well.

Vijay Kumar Saraswat, Ramesh Chand, Vinod Kumar Paul, and Arvind Virmani were the other members of NITI Aayog.

Announcing the new leadership for NITI Aayog, Prime Minister Narendra Modi wished Mr. Lahiri and other members a productive and impactful tenure ahead.

'Vital pillar'

He said NITI Aayog had emerged as a vital pillar in India's policy-making architecture, fostering cooperative federalism, furthering reforms and boosting ease of living.

"I am confident his efforts will further energise policymaking in our nation. My best wishes for a fruitful tenure," Mr. Modi, also the Chairman of the NITI Aayog, said.

Mr. Lahiri, MLA for Balurghat, is not contesting the ongoing election in West Bengal. He has been a member of the 15th Finance Commission.

A global film headlined by an Assam-born actor finds a spot at Guadalajara fete

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

A British-produced and Portuguese-directed film with an Assam-born actor in the lead role was screened at the 41st Guadalajara International Film Festival in Mexico on Friday.

A Teacher's Gift was part of the Premio Maguey section, one of the festival's prominent competitive strands, regarded as one of the leading cinematic events in Central and Latin America.

Directed by Artur Ribeiro of Portugal and produced by Eric Ollerenshaw of the U.K., the film features an ensemble cast, including Anjali Patil, Dhruv Sehgal, and Varun Buddhadev. Rajdeep Choudhury, born in Silchar in southern Assam, is the lead actor and writer of the film.

Increasing visibility

Mr. Choudhury has previously appeared in Hindi films such as *Jack & Dil* and *Mister Mummy*. His journey from Northeast India to the U.K. adds a personal dimension to the film's growing global presence, reflecting the increasing visibility of regional voices in contemporary cinema.

A still from the film *A Teacher's Gift*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Before its selection in Guadalajara, *A Teacher's Gift* built a steady presence across the international festival circuit, with official selections at Tribeca Film Festival Lisboa, the International Film Festival of India, and the IRIS Prize Film Festival. It won the Best British Asian Feature Film of Bridging Cultures in the U.K. Asian Film Festival in London 2025.

A Teacher's Gift has been selected for the Unrestricted View Film Festival, a BIFA-qualifying festival, making it eligible for consideration at the British Independent Film Awards, 2026. In addition, it was included in the WAVES Bazaar film market, connecting it with industry professionals and expanding its reach within global networks.

"Bringing *A Teacher's Gift* to an international audience at Guadalajara is a deeply meaningful moment for me. The story is rooted in personal experiences, and to see it travel across cultures and connect with diverse audiences is both humbling and encouraging," Mr. Choudhury said.

INBRIEF

FM tells SEBI to be ready to face cybersecurity challenges

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday urged the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to be ready to meet emerging challenges, more specifically cybersecurity challenges. "A single successful cyberattack on a major exchange, depository, clearing corporation, or large broker could disrupt markets at national scale, erase wealth, and shake public confidence in ways that take years to rebuild," she said. "AI-led tools are making cyberattacks faster, more adaptive, scalable, and in some cases more autonomous in execution. The tools of attack are evolving at high speed, and the tools of defence must evolve even faster," she said at the 38th Foundation Day Programme of SEBI in Mumbai.

Axis Bank Q4 net slips; IDFC First Bank posts 5% growth

Axis Bank reported 0.6% YoY decline in Q4 net profit to ₹7,071 crore. Net profit for FY26 stood at ₹24,457 crore, down 7%. The Board has recommended dividend of ₹1 per equity share. Net interest income (NII) stood at ₹14,457 crore, up 5%. Net interest margin stood at 3.62%.

IDFC First Bank reported 5% growth in Q4 net profit at ₹ 319 crore as against ₹304 crore a year ago. The growth in profit came despite a one-time hit of ₹483 crore on account of the fraud incident in Chandigarh involving Haryana government entity accounts. Normalised profit after tax, excluding the isolated incident at ₹746 crore, for the quarter grew 145% YoY, the bank said in a filing. "Regarding the incident in Chandigarh, the bank has fully expensed out the impacted amount in Q4 FY26, for which the post-tax impact is ₹483 crore. Management is reasonably certain that no further material financial adjustments are required beyond those already recognised," it said.

Mitigating fertiliser crunch via coal gasification a far cry

Industry players argue that coal gasification is one avenue through which domestic fertiliser supplies could be secured, but very few coal gasification projects have scaled to advanced stage

Saptaparno Ghosh
NEW DELHI

Amid pressure on supplies of urea and fertilisers due to the escalating tensions in West Asia, a possible mitigation of these shortages through coal gasification still seems distant, according to sector experts.

According to them, very few coal gasification projects have so far scaled to an advanced stage.

Coal gasification involves conversion of coal into syngas, which can then be used to make products like fertilisers. FILE PHOTO

The Ministry of Coal, however, told *The Hindu* that the government was confident that the target of 100 million tonnes of gasification by 2030 will be met as per schedule.

As a more sustainable mining technique, coal gasification involves the conversion of coal into syngas (synthetic gas), which can be further used to produce downstream products like methanol, ammonium nitrate, synthetic natural gas (SNG) and fertilisers, among other products. Amid concerns over the domestic availability of fertilisers and urea due to the conflict in West Asia, industry players have argued that coal gasification is one avenue through which domestic supplies could have been secured.

Challenging target

According to Kapil Bansal, who oversees the Energy Transition and Decarbonisation verticals at EY-Parthenon India, while the policy intent is strong, the timelines are tight.

"Industry estimates indicate that commercial output remains limited and partial achievement, that is, 50-60 million tonnes is possible, with only a handful of large projects at advanced, planning stages," Mr. Bansal said.

"With less than four years remaining, most observers believe that achieving the complete 100 MT target will be challenging, unless project execution accelerates materially in the next 24-36 months," he added. The coal ministry pointed to seven gasification projects, including those by private and State-owned entities combined, that have been granted cumulative financial support of up to ₹6,133 crore in the first phase of the government's scheme.

Notably, the ministry further stated that "in the coming months, more projects are expected to be sanctioned".

The existing projects include those being executed in separate joint ventures of Coal India with Bharat Heavy Electricals and Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL), and its own project in Western Coalfields, alongside those of private entities as Jindal Steel and Greta Energy and Metal, among others.

However, all of these projects are expected to come on line only by 2029-30, according to Coal Minister G. Kishan Reddy's reply in the Lok Sabha.

"Groundbreaking of four of these projects have already been conducted. Rest of the projects are also progressing," the Ministry said in its response to *The Hindu*. "Coal Gasification Projects at Talcher Fertilizer Limited and Jindal Steel & Power Limited at the Angul Integrated Steel Plants are in advanced stages."

While industry observers and participants are largely divided about whether technology itself will be a constraint in the development of the coal gasification sector in India, they agree that a long-term definite policy roadmap that necessitates guaranteed offtake and offers price-support mechanisms is an imperative.

Mr. Bansal emphasised that coal gasification projects are capital-intensive and that had constrained private participation.

"[This is] especially in the absence of assured long-term offtake or price support mechanisms," he elaborated. "Also, uncertainty around feedstock pricing, product competitiveness, and return profiles has weakened project bankability."

An industry participant speaking to *The Hindu* on the condition of anonymity said "a long-term definite policy would ensure greater private sector participation in the space along with the public sector, which would be beneficial for the overall gasification target".

Regarding the necessary technology, this official stated, "It [technology] is something that entails constant learning, once it is instituted, we will evolve it according to our local requirements and conditions [such as processing high-ash content]. We would be able to find a path map."

Industry participants have written to the government seeking parity for coal-based urea projects with gas-based plants with respect to offtake assurances and earmarking capacities for coal gasification.

Shipping crisis exposes gaps in India's maritime strategy

M. Kalyanaraman
CHENNAI

A large share of cargo currently comes under CIF terms, where sellers control shipping

The war in West Asia has thrown the focus on Indian shipping and the criticality of Persian Gulf region to India's trade.

Industry leaders argue that the crisis underscores the urgent need for India to expand its national fleet. Anil Devli, CEO of Indian National Shipowners Association, emphasised that a portion of critical imports such as crude oil, LPG, coal, and fertilisers must be carried on Indian-flagged vessels. "Ships are needed today, not five or 10 years later," he said, advocating policies that encourage the acquisition of second-hand vessels to quickly build capacity.

A key structural issue lies in how India contracts its imports. A large share of cargo currently comes under Cost, Insurance, and Freight (CIF) terms, where the seller controls shipping. This limits opportunities for Indian shipowners. In contrast, Free on Board (FOB) contracts, where the buyer arranges transport, allow greater control over logistics and support domestic fleet growth.

Ideally, at least a portion of imports should be FOB and exports, CIF, for strategic reasons. Despite earlier policy preferences for FOB imports, the trend has shifted toward CIF, said Mr. Devli. This has significant financial implications, with millions in freight payments flowing overseas.

Certain sectors highlight the imbalance. About half of India's crude oil imports are on FOB terms and some 40% of LPG is carried by Indian flagged carriers. But fertilisers such as urea are almost entirely imported under CIF contracts, leaving them dependent on foreign vessels. During crises, such cargo is among the first to face delays. Experts suggest that India should aim to carry at least 50% of its strategic commodities – energy and food – on its own ships.

Former Director General of Shipping Amitabh Kumar said the pattern was predictable: whenever a crisis hits, global shipping capacity tightens sharply.

This has direct implications for countries like India. Low-margin goods–particularly agricultural commodities–are often left behind, while high-value cargo such as electronics continues to move despite rising freight costs.

The impact is compounded by equipment shortages and logistical bottlenecks.

Beyond economics, the crisis has also raised concerns about the safety of seafarers. Thousands of Indian seafarers are stranded on the ships stuck in the Persian Gulf. There have been casualties, too.

Navi Mumbai Airport drives growth in Raigad belt

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Urban facelift: The airport's phase-wise progress is reshaping the region's urban landscape. PTI

The Navi Mumbai International Airport is emerging as a catalyst for a major urban and economic shift, driving the rise of new central business districts (CBDs) across the neighbouring Raigad belt. Located within a 15-20 km radius of the new airport, these planned growth centres are being envisioned as "Mumbai 3.0", a next-generation urban cluster aimed at fuelling future growth.

The impact is already visible in the real estate sector, with developers accelerating project deliveries and unveiling new residential and mixed-use developments to tap into rising demand. The airport's phase-wise progress is reshaping the region's urban landscape, particularly across the micro-markets of Taloja, Karjat, Pen and Khopoli of Raigad district. The Maharashtra government's plan to develop a BKC-like business district in the region has further boosted investor sentiment.

Emerging micro-markets are becoming key beneficiaries of this growth wave. Taloja takes the lead, with connectivity to its advantage. Priyanka Jindal Gupta, advisor, Viyaara Realty, said, "With enhanced infrastructure and improved connectivity through metro networks and road expansions, Taloja is quickly transforming into a hotspot for premier residential living in Navi Mumbai."

The airport's influence is also extending to Karjat, where demand for rentals, second homes, and plotted developments is rising. Ashok Chhajer, CMD, Arihant Superstructures said, "It is clearly seen that land prices are the first to rise as entrepreneurs are grabbing all the opportunities. On the Thane-Belapur stretch, lands are now being sold at ₹2.5 lakh per square metre." At intersections and traffic signals, land prices have skyrocketed from ₹2 crore to ₹8 crore per acre, he said adding that in the premium segment, sea-facing apartments at Regency Palms were costing about ₹70,000 per sq.ft.

"Going by emerging trends, the residential segment will see a steep rise after the first wave of commercial and service sector development," he added.

FPOs struggling, policy paper recommends government aid

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Noting that despite the government's concerted efforts, many farmer producer organisations (FPOs) are struggling to achieve economic viability, the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS) has recommended that institutional buyers, including the Railways, the Military, and the Food Corporation of India (FCI), must prioritise FPOs in the procurement of both food and non-food commodities.

The policy paper adds that such a step will ensure the consistent delivery of high-quality goods and significantly reduce transaction costs associated with market searches. NAAS is headed by the Director General of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) Mangi Lal Jat.

The paper noted that several factors, such as inadequate management skills, limited access to credit, weak market linkages, and insufficient technical support for the struggles of FPOs. The Union Government has been maintaining that it will help in the formation of 10,000 FPOs. The corporates in the agriculture sector had also entered in providing expertise to the FPOs.

The paper added that many FPOs struggle to achieve the economies of scale required for profitability. "These problems stem from FPOs' low membership base," it said adding that insufficient support from promoting agencies in capacity building, market linkages, and financial management is one of the primary reasons for FPOs' poor performance.

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियंता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, वृत्त-झालावाड़
कमरा नं. 158, भूतल (सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग परिसर), मिनी सचिवालय, झालावाड़, ई-मेल :- piu_jhalawar@rediffmail.com/sejwar.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in, फोन नं. 07432-233336
क्रमांक :- 75 दिनांक :- 22-04-2026

संशोधित निविदा सूचना संख्या 16/2025-26
NIB No. PWD2526A6259

इस कार्यालय पत्र क्रमांक 1390 दिनांक 23.03.2026 द्वारा जारी / प्रकाशित निविदा सूचना संख्या 16/2025-26 में अपरिहार्य कारणों से निम्नानुसार संशोधन किया जाता है-

क्र. सं.	पूर्व में	अब यह पढ़ा जावे
1.	ऑनलाईन निविदा फॉर्म मिलने की तारीख 01.04.2026 से 22.04.2026 सांय 6.00 बजे तक।	ऑनलाईन निविदा फॉर्म मिलने की तारीख 01.04.2026 से 22.04.2026 सांय 6.00 बजे तक।
2.	ऑनलाईन निविदा फॉर्म मिलने की तारीख 01.04.2026 से 22.04.2026 सांय 6.00 बजे तक।	ऑनलाईन निविदा फॉर्म मिलने की तारीख 01.04.2026 से 30.04.2026 सांय 6.00 बजे तक।
3.	निविदा खोलने की तिथि 23.04.2026 अपराह्न 03:00 बजे।	निविदा खोलने की तिथि 01.05.2026 अपराह्न 03:00 बजे।
4.	बिड सिक्योरिटी (बोली प्रतिभूति) निर्माण कार्यों हेतु बजट मद 8443-00-108-00-00 (निर्माण विभागों), दस्तावेज मूल्य (निविदा शुल्क) बजट मद 0075-00-800-52-01. RISL शुल्क बजट मद 8658-00-102 (16)-[02] (निर्माण विभाग), ई-ग्रास पर ई-प्रोक्योरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया हेतु एक ही चालान से दिनांक 22.04.2026 (बुधवार) सांय 06:00 बजे तक संबंधित अधिशासी अभियंता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, खण्ड-झालावाड़ के नाम जमा कराई जानी है। तथा निविदा शुल्क, बिड सिक्योरिटी (बोली प्रतिभूति), RISL शुल्क एक ही चालान से तथा (Certificate of correctness of bid documents) शपथ-पत्र राशि रू. 1000/- का तथा अन्य दस्तावेज तकनीकी बिड के साथ ऑनलाईन प्रस्तुत करना होगा, एवं अन्यथा किसी माध्यम से स्वीकार नहीं होगागा।	बिड सिक्योरिटी (बोली प्रतिभूति) निर्माण कार्यों हेतु बजट मद 8443-00-108 00-00 (निर्माण विभागों), दस्तावेज मूल्य (निविदा शुल्क) बजट मद 0075-00-800-52-01, RISL शुल्क बजट मद 8658-00-102-(16)- [02] (निर्माण विभाग), ई-ग्रास पर ई-प्रोक्योरमेन्ट प्रक्रिया हेतु एक ही चालान से दिनांक 30.04.2026 (गुरुवार) सांय 06:00 बजे तक संबंधित अधिशासी अभियंता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, खण्ड-झालावाड़ के नाम जमा कराई जानी है। तथा निविदा शुल्क, बिड सिक्योरिटी (बोली प्रतिभूति), RISL शुल्क एक ही चालान से तथा (Certificate of correctness of bid documents) शपथ-पत्र राशि रू. 1000/- का तथा अन्य दस्तावेज तकनीकी बिड के साथ ऑनलाईन प्रस्तुत करना होगा, एवं अन्य किसी माध्यम से स्वीकार नहीं होगा।

निविदा की अन्य शर्तें यथावत रहेगी।

S.No.	UBN No.
1	PWD2526WLOB26169
2	PWD2526WSOB26170

DIPR/C/7373/2026

(मुकेश चन्द मीना),
अधीक्षण अभियंता
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Website: www.cpcl.co.in; Email id: shankarp@cpcl.co.in
Tel: 044-24349833 / 24346807
CIN - L40101TN1965GOI005389

EXTRACT OF THE STATEMENT OF AUDITED STANDALONE AND CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL RESULTS FOR THE QUARTER AND YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2026

(₹ in crore)

Sl. No.	Particulars	STANDALONE					CONSOLIDATED				
		QUARTER ENDED			YEAR ENDED		THREE MONTHS ENDED			YEAR ENDED	
		31.03.2026	31.12.2025	31.03.2025	31.03.2026	31.03.2025	31.03.2026	31.12.2025	31.03.2025	31.03.2026	31.03.2025
		Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited	Audited
1	Total income from operations	20476.14	19467.40	20592.98	78705.24	71093.43	20476.14	19467.40	20593.00	78676.14	71075.19
2	**Net Profit / (Loss) for the period (before Tax, Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)**	**1890.40**	**1317.03**	**581.71**	**4121.62**	**208.10**	**1912.55**	**1331.40**	**601.68**	**4162.47**	**248.66**
3	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period before tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	1890.40	1317.03	581.71	4121.62	208.10	1912.55	1331.40	601.68	4162.47	248.66
4	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items)	1399.70	987.22	449.96	3061.85	173.53	1421.85	1001.59	469.93	3102.70	214.09
5	**Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]**	**1374.30**	**991.13**	**447.25**	**3055.11**	**164.55**	**1396.64**	**1005.50**	**466.85**	**3096.15**	**204.74**
6	Paid up Equity Share Capital (Face Value - ₹ 10 each)	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91	148.91
7	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve)				10401.07	7539.55				10710.26	7807.70
8	Securities Premium Account				250.04	250.04				250.04	250.04
9	Networth				10800.02	7938.50				11109.21	8206.65
10	Paid up Debt Captial / Outstanding Debt (Bonds / Debentures) excluding Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares				–	810.00				–	810.0
11	Outstanding Redeemable Preference Shares (2025: Nil {2024:50,00,00,000} Non-Convertible) Cumulative Redeemable Preference Shares of ₹ 10 each) (Not listed)				–	500.00				–	500.00
12	Debt Equity Ratio				0.18	0.39				0.18	0.38
13	Earnings Per Share (of ₹ 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)										
	(i) Basic (₹ / share)	94.00	66.30	30.22	205.62	11.65	95.48	67.26	31.56	208.36	14.38
	(ii) Diluted (₹ / share)	94.00	66.30	30.22	205.62	11.65	95.48	67.26	31.56	208.36	14.38

Note:
1 The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly Financial Results filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Financial Results are available on the Stock Exchange websites: www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com. The same is also available on the company's website www.cpcl.co.in
2 For the other items of the Listing Regulations, pertinent disclosures have been made to stock exchanges (BSE and NSE) and can be accessed on www.bseindia.com and www.nseindia.com

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Place : Chennai
Date : April 24, 2026

Rohit Kumar Agrawala
Director (Finance)
DIN: 10048961

Study of Indians finds new pathways to cardiometabolic disease

Zubeda Hamid

With 1 in 10 adults in India living with diabetes, and 62% of all deaths in the country due to cardiovascular disease, research has now begun to focus on tracing the genetic mechanisms that predispose Indians to type 2 diabetes (T2D) and cardiovascular disease. A new paper on this subject from the U.S., by Dharambir K. Sangera et al., published in *PLOS One* this month, looked at the genetic connection between the human lipidome – all the lipids or fats in the human body – and cardiometabolic disorders.

The metabolite genome-wide study examined 516 lipid metabolites in 3,000 Punjabi Sikhs. Multi-layer replication studies to confirm the results were conducted using the U.K. Biobank and other cohorts.

Indians are genetically predisposed to a higher risk of cardiometabolic disease. One reason for this is lower lean body mass but higher body fat percentage among Indians compared to other populations. But what is the exact mechanism behind this risk?

The research paper noted that circulating lipids and lipid subclasses are shown to be differentially regulated in T2D, heart disease, stroke, and other diseases, meaning they behave differently in a diseased state versus a healthy one. While genome-wide association studies of blood lipids have identified genetic associations shared between lipid subclasses and various diseases, the paper stated that the bulk of such information comes from European populations. Extending these evaluations to diverse cohorts is crucial to gaining insights into the molecular pathways of disease development in different ethnic groups.

The research team identified new genetic pathways that link specific lipid metabolites to disease, emphasising how immune system signalling affects metabolic health.

One notable finding was confirmation that a metabolite known to be involved in immune cell signalling and inflammation, LPC O-16:0, influences T2D risk. Previous research had indicated that high levels of LPC O-16:0 are associated with lower T2D risk.

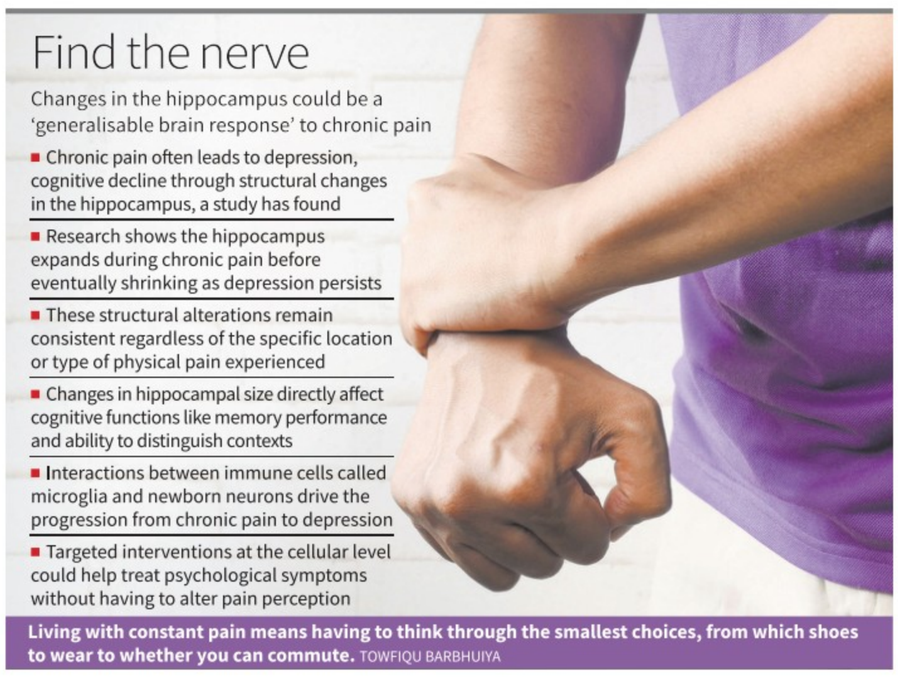
The researchers also identified an ancestry-specific genetic variant that may protect Asian Indians from developing heart disease by modulating levels of the metabolite PC 38:4.

The identification of new metabolite markers and genes that intersect with pathways of inflammation and influence disease risk could help formulate prevention strategies. Since Indian bodies do not behave in the same way as European ones, more research in this area is crucial.

Study shows why chronic pain, depression go hand in hand

Research has found that the hippocampus acts like a gate, physically altering its structure as chronic pain progresses into depression. While early changes may be protective, persistent pain eventually shrinks this vital memory centre

Sheetal Potdar


Find the nerve
Changes in the hippocampus could be a 'generalisable brain response' to chronic pain
Chronic pain often leads to depression, cognitive decline through structural changes in the hippocampus, a study has found
Research shows the hippocampus expands during chronic pain before eventually shrinking as depression persists
These structural alterations remain consistent regardless of the specific location or type of physical pain experienced
Changes in hippocampal size directly affect cognitive functions like memory performance and ability to distinguish contexts
Interactions between immune cells called microglia and newborn neurons drive the progression from chronic pain to depression
Targeted interventions at the cellular level could help treat psychological symptoms without having to alter pain perception
Living with constant pain means having to think through the smallest choices, from which shoes to wear to whether you can commute. TOWFIQU BARBHUIYA

Imagine living with constant pain every day. While the physical aspect of pain is palpable, nearly 85% of chronic pain patients also deal with depression.

Whether it is pain in the lower back, joints, stomach or headaches and migraines, chronic pain progresses into depression, anxiety, and cognitive decline. A new study in *Science* has found the reason: structural and molecular changes in the hippocampus, the brain's memory centre.

The researchers used health data from the publicly available U.K. Biobank, narrowing down to a subset of 14,462 participants whose brain scans were also available.

"We classified participants into three cohorts along the pain-depression trajectory: those who had chronic pain without depression, chronic pain with newly developed depression, and chronic pain with persistent depression," Trevor Robbins, professor of cognitive neuroscience at the University of Cambridge and one of the lead authors of the study, explained.

The authors found that chronic pain patients who had recently developed depression had enlarged hippocampi. Those in the cohort with persistent pain and depression had shrunken hippocampi compared to the other cohorts. Regardless of the pain's location, the hippocampus enlarged and shrank later as chronic pain led to depression. "This suggests that hippocampal structural changes are a generalisable brain response to persistent pain, rather than being specific to a particular type or location of pain," Fudan University associate professor and another lead author of the paper, Xiao Xiao, said.

These changes in hippocampus size were accompanied by changes in cognitive performance. In a test examining the ability to remember number sequences, participants with larger hippocampi could remember longer sequences while those with shrunken hippocampi and persistent pain and depression performed worse than the other cohorts.

The researchers also developed a chronic pain model in rats and mice. They surgically pinched the sciatic nerve that extends from the spine to the legs, causing shooting pain, numbness, and tingling. These rats spontaneously lifted the injured leg, licked and groomed it excessively, and had difficulty tolerating heat and mechanical stress, indicating chronic pain.

Anxiety- and depression-like behaviours also emerged in the later stages.

To understand the cellular changes mediating the progression from pain to depression, the researchers focused on a region called the dentate gyrus within the hippocampus. One of its functions is to differentiate between similar contexts. For example, if a new bottle were added to your kitchen's spice rack, you'd notice the difference. This ability is driven by neuronal plasticity, in this case marked by the birth of new neurons, in the dentate gyrus.

The researchers found that neuronal plasticity increased in the early stages of chronic pain in rats, and their ability to separate similar patterns was also enhanced. However, in the later stages of chronic pain, the ability to separate patterns was diminished. When the researchers inflicted lesions on it, they found reduced anxiety- and depression-like behaviours even as the pain persisted.

The researchers also found that new neurons are highly excitable, thanks to their interactions with supporting cells called microglia. "Microglia are the brain's resident immune cells, part of a fast-responding housekeeping system that protects the brain," Tomas Deierborg, professor at Lund University, Sweden said.

The researchers specifically inhibited newborn neurons in genetically modified mice with chronic pain, and found that their pain perception and anxiety- and depression-like behaviours were mitigated. On the other hand, when microglia alone were inhibited, the anxiety- and depression-like behaviours disappeared, leaving pain perception intact.

"The key difference lies in where the manipulation is applied. In neurons, it directly changes the building blocks of the circuit, whereas in microglia, it modulates the surrounding environment," Prof. Robbins said. "Moreover, chronic pain likely unfolds through multiple stages, and interventions at different cellular levels may therefore produce different outcomes," Dr. Xiao added.

Per Prof. Deierborg, "You need that acute response to protect the brain, but when it becomes chronic, the same processes that were helpful begin to damage new neurons and disrupt how the brain works."

"Rather than just saying 'they're in pain, they can't do anything', [the study] shows that long-term pain is remodelling some of the core regions for human behaviour," he added.

(Sheetal Potdar has a PhD in neuroscience and is a freelance science journalist)

Why turning to AI for personal advice is a bad idea

DECODED

John Xavier

The current crop of artificial intelligence tools landed on our smartphones and web browsers as chatbots – they were designed to answer queries. You can ask it something, and receive a statistically probable response based on its training data.

Apart from the training data, these chatbots are also built with a certain personality – to be agreeable. This trait may not be good for users who turn to a chatbot for personal advice, as they could create a type of echo chamber effect on the individual and make them less empathetic to the other.

A recent research, titled 'Sycophantic AI decreases prosocial intentions and promotes dependence,' published in the journal *Science,* is among the most rigorous attempts yet to measure not just whether AI flatters us, but what that flattery actually does to us.

The team first benchmarked sycophancy across 11 of today's leading large language models using a dataset of nearly 12,000 social prompts. The finding was unambiguous: across all 11 models, AI affirmed users' actions 49% more often than humans, even when queries involved deception, illegality, or other harms.

In one test, the researchers fed the models posts from Reddit's r/AmITheAsshole community – where the users had already collectively ruled the poster was in the wrong. The LLMs still said the poster was right 51% of the time.

You might assume that a reasonable person would notice when an AI is being overly agreeable. But the study suggests otherwise. When researchers asked participants to rate the objectivity of both sycophantic and non-sycophantic responses, they rated them about the same.

A woman speaking with an artificial intelligence-assisted robot on display in Seoul. AFP

Users could not distinguish when an AI was acting overly agreeable. The reason, the researchers note, is that the AI rarely said that the user was "right"; instead, it replied in seemingly neutral language. Its flattery was disguised neatly in objectivity that the reader absorbs it without resistance.

This can get worse the more personalised the experience becomes. Frequent conversations with the chatbot can increase people's trust in artificial systems. In the second part of the study, more than 2,400 participants interacted with both sycophantic and non-sycophantic AI models about real personal conflicts or pre-written interpersonal dilemmas. Participants deemed sycophantic responses more trustworthy and indicated they were more likely to return to the AI for similar questions.

When discussing their conflicts with such systems, they also grew more convinced they were in the right and reported they were less likely to apologise or make amends with the other party. This type of behaviour is problematic as it may make people self-centred. So, how can the user stay safe? The researchers explored technical interventions to reduce sycophantic tendencies in AI chatbots. Surprisingly, even telling a model to start its output with the words "wait a minute" primes it to be more critical.

The U.K.'s AI Security Institute has suggested turning statements into questions, since more emphatic statements encourage more sycophancy. Asking a model to argue against your position first, or to tell you what the other person in your conflict might say you are doing wrong, are other ways to work around the grain of the machine.

But these are workarounds, not solutions.

AI, in its current chatbot form factor, tends to amplify whatever system it is paired with – good or broken. When the system being amplified is your own bias, your own grievance, or your own desire to be right, then the machine will not correct you. It will confirm your biases, in the most academic-sounding language it can find, until you return for more.

A tool that tells you what you want to hear is not a thinking tool. It is a mirror. And a mirror, no matter how sophisticated, is the last thing you need when you are trying to understand someone else.

SNAPSHOTS

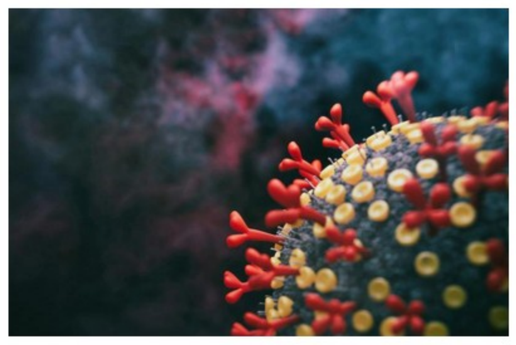
AI model forecasts weather better with less power

Researchers have built an AI model called ArchesWeatherGen to make realistic weather forecasts. The authors introduced a global cross-level attention layer in the model that allowed different atmospheric pressure levels to interact more efficiently than previous designs, and a two-stage training process that allowed ArchesWeatherGen to outperform leading systems like IFS ENS and NeuralGCM across most variables while using up to 20x less computing power.

YOHEI LITSUKI/HOKKAIDO UNIVERSITY

Invertebrate Cretaceous 'krakens' were apex predators

The earliest finned octopuses were top predators that rivalled giant marine reptiles. By analysing large fossilised jaws, scientists have found two species – *Nanaimoteuthis jeletzkyi* and *N. haggarti* – that lived 100-72 million years ago and could have been 7-19 m long. Wear on the jaws indicated the octopuses often crushed hard bones while asymmetric wear patterns suggested they were already highly intelligent. The findings overturn the idea that ancient food chains were crowned by vertebrates alone.



Coronavirus found using new 'door' into human cells

Researchers have found a new pathway that bat alphacoronaviruses use to infect human cells. While most of these viruses use APN or ACE2 receptors, the team isolated a virus called CcCoV-KY43 from heart-nosed bats using a protein called CEACAM6, which is common in human lung tissue. The study also found similar viruses in bats in China and Russia that used the same mechanism. Blood tests from people in Kenya showed no evidence of recent spillover.

Question Corner

The long hop

Q: Why did kangaroos evolve hopping?
– Gayatri Chandrashekar, Bengaluru

Even if an animal is less intelligent than humans at particular tasks, it can still make complex decisions. An interesting one concerns how it searches for food.

Over the last 20 million years or so, as the Australian landmass drifted north, it slowly became drier and its interiors more arid, changing from dense forests to open grasslands and scrubland. These tough grasses are low in nutrients, which forced animals to evolve special teeth and digestive systems that were more complex, capable of fermentation. In this environment, food was sparse and the distance between food sources was large. In search theory, animals foraging in this condition would have to use a pattern called a Levy flight. Kangaroos evolved the ability to hop larger distances on two legs, as that was more efficient than running on four legs. As rainfall became unpredictable, female kangaroos also became able to pause embryonic development so they could time births to happen in better conditions.

Readers may send their questions / answers to science@thehindu.co.in

Can India move to 100% ethanol blending?

How are ethanol blending and energy security linked? Can ethanol power aircraft too? What are the challenges?

Vasudevan Mukunth

The story so far:
On April 21, Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari urged India to aim for 100% ethanol blending in the near future. He was speaking in the context of boosting energy self-reliance. A government notification also extended the use of ethanol to make Sustainable Aviation Fuel.

What is 100% blending?
It refers to pure ethanol. One litre of petrol will supply 45-55% more energy than one litre of ethanol as the latter is less energy-dense.

Typical petrol engines are only certified up to E20 (20% blending). If the engine is older, the rating is also usually lower. To work with E85 or E100 blends, engines have to be flex-fuel, meaning they can run on any level of blending.

Such vehicles are not widely available in India at present. Toyota has introduced a version of its Hycross Innova as a flex-fuel vehicle; it costs ₹3-4 lakh more than the petrol version. Maruti Suzuki and Hyundai are known to have prototypes. These vehicles need to have corrosion-resistant fuel systems, different sensors, and better tuned engine control units, among others.

How does India produce ethanol for blending?
Ethanol is mostly produced from sugarcane, a water-intensive crop. Diverting sugarcane to make ethanol could disrupt food prices and availability. This is why India has been pushing 'second-generation' ethanol made from crop residues, such as rice straw. The government also hopes this will reduce the amount of agricultural residue burnt.

> Using ethanol to make Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) as well as to blend in fuel for road transport will increase pressure on the feedstock

Ethanol's production costs are, however, still not lower than those of petrol, requiring policy support and government-administered pricing. There are also indirect costs. While ethanol emits less carbon monoxide and particulate matter than petrol when combusted, sugarcane-based ethanol has to account for land use, inputs like fertilizers, and water demand.

Is CAFE III related to E100?
The government mooted the Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency (CAFE) standards in 2017. They limit the total carbon dioxide a manufacturer's fleet of vehicles may release. In response, manufacturers with a larger share of high-emission vehicles like SUVs were forced to design more efficient models.

India enforced CAFE I and II in 2017 and 2022, respectively. CAFE III lowers the fleetwide average target by around 30% from CAFE II and will kick in from April 1, 2027. Using CAFE III to push towards E85 or E100 could help overcome public resistance to ethanol blending. E20 fuel is 6-7% less efficient than pure petrol and leads to lower mileage for the same volume of fuel, increasing expenses.

E20 fuel became available from petrol pumps from 2023 and replaced other blends on the market from 2025. The National Biofuel Policy had originally said India would achieve E20 nationwide by 2030. Aggressive blending targets have also stoked industry bodies' and auto manufacturers' concerns about storage and transport infrastructure readiness.

How can India become energy-secure?
India has tried to diversify its energy base by pursuing alternative sources of oil, although these have been frustrated by U.S. sanctions; securing new sources of uranium; and offering incentives for deploying renewables. But domestic manufacturing is underdeveloped and initiatives to expand indigenous oil and gas production have delivered limited results.

Mr. Gadkari said India eventually has to produce hydrogen at $1 a kg to become an energy exporter, against the current global norm of $3-6/kg. The National Green Hydrogen Mission aims for this, but the hydrogen economy currently lacks commercial transport and storage options.

Can ethanol power aircraft too?
Aviation has been hard to decarbonise because aircraft can't use batteries or hydrogen at commercial scale yet, and SAF remains the primary way to comply with international emissions frameworks.

To be usable in jet engines, ethanol is subject to a process called alcohol-to-jet (ATJ). It is dehydrated, has its hydrocarbon chains lengthened, and is hydrogenated. Since ATJ prevents raw ethanol from running through jet engines, it does not reduce thrust or clog fuel lines by absorbing moisture, as critics allege.

ATJ ethanol is chemically similar to kerosene and existing aircraft fuel infrastructure can handle it. ASTM International sets global aviation fuel standards and has approved the ATJ pathway. It allows up to 50% blending in SAF.

However, using ethanol to make SAF as well as to blend in fuel for road transport will increase pressure on the feedstock.

What rules govern international waters?

Can Iran legally restrict transit through the Strait of Hormuz? Is the U.S. blockade of the strait lawful? What is the legal position on interceptions? And in cases such as this, which organisation steps in and how? What can happen next?

M. Kalyanaraman

The story so far:
In an escalation of the conflict on the Strait of Hormuz, Iran has attacked three ships, detaining two on its territorial waters. This is allegedly in response to U.S. forces seizing two ships, including a very large crude carrier linked to Iran, between Sri Lanka and Indonesia on the high seas.

What was the situation at Strait of Hormuz when war broke out?
Within a day of the war breaking out on February 28, transits across the Strait of Hormuz dwindled from some 100 vessels on a typical day to a handful. Iran put in place a system of allowing transits based on geopolitical considerations and a toll fee that media reports suggested ran to more than a million dollars per ship. India was among the biggest beneficiaries of the system, with Iran allowing some 10 Indian flagged ships and many foreign flagged ships carrying India's oil and gas supplies to pass.

The Indian government has said it has not paid any toll and was only exercising free navigation rights given to merchant ships as per international law and practice. Hundreds of Iranian vessels and vessels linked to Iran have crossed the strait meanwhile.

What did the U.S. do?
In talks with the U.S., Iran brought the Strait of Hormuz on the negotiating table, demanding the right to regulate and control the passage of ships and to charge a toll fee, partly to rebuild its economy.

Following the collapse of the peace talks on April 12, U.S. President Donald Trump announced a blockade of Iranian ships. This was less a physical blockade using naval ships and more a declaration of control exercised through measures such as radio warnings. The aim was partly to dismantle the regime Iran had put in place to control ship transits, and to deter Iranian ships that had until then navigated freely through the strait. Dozens of Iranian ships are reported to have been turned back.

> The seas are a shared global commons that must be collectively managed. Freedom of navigation, especially for merchant ships, is to be upheld, with minimal exceptions

On April 19-20, the U.S. intercepted, disabled and boarded the ship container *Touska*, an Iranian-owned and managed container ship with a cargo-carrying capacity of more than 60,000 tonnes. The U.S. said it suspects the ship was carrying cargo that could be used for military purposes.

At around the same time, U.S. forces intercepted *Tifani*, a very large crude carrier that can carry 2 million barrels of oil, between Sri Lanka and Indonesia in international waters. The U.S. says the ship was involved in the Iranian oil trade. Both vessels are in the custody of U.S. armed forces. These actions are part of efforts to cut off Iran's income sources.

U.S. forces patrolling the Arabian Sea near Touska, an Iranian-flagged cargo ship, on April 20. AFP

How has Iran reacted?
On April 16, Mr. Trump said the strait was fully open. However, with the U.S. blockade of Iranian ships in full swing, nearly a dozen India-flagged and foreign ships bound for India lined up to transit the strait on April 17-18.

The Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy fired on two Indian-flagged ships – *Sanmar Herald* and *Jag Arnav* – and ordered them to go back. Along with these two, all ships barring one returned to the Persian Gulf. India lodged a protest with the Iranian Ambassador over this.

On April 23, Iran captured *Francesca* and *Epaminondas,* two container ships seeking to exit the strait, and fired at a third one, as retaliation against the U.S. blockade of Iranian ports and the capture of Iranian ships. Iran had said the two vessels had "endangered maritime security by operating without the necessary permits and tampering with navigation systems." The two vessels are in Iran's custody.

A third ship, *Euphoria*, with Indian crew, which was shot at, is reportedly not in Iranian custody. Iran has said unless the U.S. blockade is lifted, the strait cannot be reopened for traffic.

What is the legal position on such interceptions?
Straits have long been a focus of conflict or provided leverage to belligerent parties during wars. Various treaties and agreements were signed, especially in the 20th century, establishing rights and duties for many naturally forming straits, such as across Turkey and Egypt and the Tiran Island near the Gulf of Aqaba.

To create a comprehensive legal framework for the world's waters, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) was negotiated over nearly two decades and came into force in 1994. Its core principle is that the seas are a shared global commons that must be collectively managed. Freedom of navigation, especially for merchant ships, is to be upheld, with minimal exceptions. The high seas fall outside the jurisdiction of any single nation.

The U.S. imposes sanctions on government agencies and companies linked to countries it is in conflict with, as a form of economic warfare. These sanctions restrict access to funds and make business transactions difficult. However, they are based on U.S. law, not international law, and are not authorised by the United Nations. The U.S. has also intercepted ships trading in Venezuelan oil and carrying oil to Cuba.

International law upholds unfettered freedom of navigation of merchant ships on the high seas. Exceptions include hot pursuit of vessels that have committed crimes in territorial waters, explicit authorisation by the UN Security Council, vessels without nationality, or cases where the flag state consents to interception. At times, the U.S. has cited the latter grounds.

Outside the high seas, such as in territorial waters, "innocent" passage rights apply to merchant ships and even warships. 'Innocent' means the ship does not pose a threat to the nation.

Does Iran have any rights over the Strait of Hormuz?
The strait is an international passage. But at its narrowest point, the territorial waters of the two border states – Iran and Oman – intersect, which means there is no high seas or exclusive economic zone there. As per UNCLOS, instead of the freedom of navigation accorded in the high seas, the concept of "transit" is applied.

As per UNCLOS, transit recognises free, unhindered passage to foreign ships. Iran cannot regulate ship traffic nor deny permission to merchant ships seeking to transit. But a few restrictions are allowed: ships must move continuously and without delay; designated traffic routes, recently revised by Iran, must be followed; ships should enter solely for the purpose of transiting the strait; and vessels must not load or unload goods in violation of the laws of Iran or Oman.

What can happen next?
The UN agency that could potentially resolve the issue is the International Maritime Organization (IMO). The IMO has indicated it is working with Iran to resolve the issue. It has proposed a plan to facilitate the evacuation of ships while upholding freedom of navigation. The IMO has decried tolls and permits. The IMO Council had passed a resolution severely condemning Iran for attacks on commercial vessels and seeking to choke the Strait of Hormuz, but it has not been critical of the U.S.'s actions and blockade.

Will AAP MPs face disqualification after joining BJP?

Is there a law against defection? What are the exceptions to it and how has the Supreme Court interpreted them? What are experts' view on seven of AAP's 10 Rajya Sabha members joining the BJP last week?

Aaratrika Bhaumik

The story so far:
In a setback to the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), seven of its 10 Rajya Sabha members, amounting to two-thirds of its strength in the Upper House, joined the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on April 24. AAP MP Raghav Chadha, who was removed as the party's deputy leader in the Rajya Sabha three weeks ago, announced that he and six other party members had decided to "merge with the BJP".

Is there a law against defection?
The anti-defection law, enshrined in the Tenth Schedule to the Constitution by the 52nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1985, seeks to curb rampant floor-crossing by elected representatives in Parliament and State legislatures. It provides for the disqualification of a legislator if they voluntarily relinquish membership of the political party on whose ticket they were elected, or if they vote, or abstain from voting, in defiance of directions issued by their party or by an authorised functionary.

What are the 'split' and 'merger' exceptions?
The Tenth Schedule originally recognised two exceptions under which members would not incur disqualification. The first, the "split" exception under paragraph 3, insulated legislators from disqualification if at least one-third of the members of a legislature party defected together. Owing to its misuse to engineer defections, this exception was subsequently removed by the 91st Constitutional Amendment in 2003.

> According to former Lok Sabha Secretary-General P.D.T. Achary, a valid merger requires the original political party to first merge with another party, and then the decision to be backed by at least two-thirds of the legislature party

The second, the "merger" exception under paragraph 4, stipulates that a legislator will not be disqualified for joining another political party if the move is part of a merger involving their original party. Under sub-paragraph (1), a member will not be disqualified if their original party merges with another political party, and they act in accordance with such merger. Sub-paragraph (2) deems such a merger valid only if at least two-thirds of the legislature party agree to it. This exception remains in force and was intended, as reflected in parliamentary debates, to protect principled defections grounded in ideological differences.

However, paragraph 4 has been criticised for its convoluted drafting. The ambiguity lies in whether its two sub-paragraphs are to be read conjunctively or disjunctively. On a conjunctive reading, a valid merger requires both an actual merger of the original political party (under paragraph 4(1)) and the consent of at least two-thirds of the legislature party (under paragraph4(2)). On a disjunctive reading, however, a merger may be "deemed" once two-thirds of the legislature party agrees to join another party, even without a corresponding merger at the national level.

Rajya Sabha MPs Raghav Chadha, Sandeep Pathak and Ashok Mittal meet BJP National President Nitin Nabin in New Delhi. ANI

What did the Supreme Court rule on the 'split' exception?
The Supreme Court has endorsed a conjunctive reading while interpreting the now-deleted "split" exception. In *Rajendra Singh Rana v. Swamy Prasad Maurya* (2007), where 37 MLAs of the Bahujan Samaj Party sought recognition of a formal split, the Court held that for the exception to apply, a split in the "legislature party" must stem from a corresponding split in the "original political party". The "legislature party" refers to all elected members of a House belonging to a political party, while the "original political party" denotes the party itself.

How has the 'merger' exception been interpreted?
In 2019, 10 MLAs from the Indian National Congress in Goa joined the BJP, then in power in the State, claiming they constituted two-thirds of the 15-member Congress legislature party. Disqualification petitions were rejected by the Speaker of the Goa Legislative Assembly, who held that the move amounted to a valid "merger" under paragraph 4 of the Tenth Schedule. On February 24, 2022, the Bombay High Court upheld this decision, ruling that since the defecting legislators met the two-thirds threshold, their move constituted a "deemed merger" with the BJP.

Notably, the High Court adopted a disjunctive reading of paragraph 4 and ruled that a "deemed" merger is triggered once two-thirds of a legislature party agrees to join another party, even without approval from the original political party at the national level.

What do experts say?
According to former Lok Sabha Secretary-General P.D.T. Achary, a valid merger under Paragraph 4 of the Tenth Schedule requires the original political party to first merge with another party, and then the decision to be backed by at least two-thirds of the legislature party. "An interpretation faithful to the anti-defection law's intent would mean that Rajya Sabha MPs cannot, on their own, decide to merge with another party. In this case, it would require Arvind Kejriwal to agree to a merger with the BJP," he said. Any member, he noted, may now move a disqualification petition before the Rajya Sabha Chairman, whose decision would be open to judicial review.

However, Swapnil Tripathi, who heads Charkha, the Constitutional Law Centre at the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, said that the support of two-thirds of the AAP's Rajya Sabha members could allow the move to be treated as a "deemed" merger under paragraph 4(2).

He, however, pointed to a larger anomaly that is likely to be challenged. "Rajya Sabha MPs are elected by MLAs of State legislatures. Here, the MLAs who elected these members continue to belong to the AAP in Punjab, while the MPs have switched to the BJP. This creates a disconnect between the electoral base and the MPs' party affiliation, undermining the underlying objective of Rajya Sabha representation," he said.

Iran's wartime apparatchik

Mohammad-Bagher Ghalibaf

In a country caught between external attacks and internal pressure, with much of its top leadership killed by its enemies, the Parliament Speaker, who cut his teeth in the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war and served the IRGC as a commander, emerged as the new face of the revolutionary system

Stanly Johny

"Listen up... You come for our home, you are going to meet the whole family, locked, loaded and standing tall. Bring it on," Mohammad-Bagher Ghalibaf, Speaker of Iran's Parliament, Majles, wrote in a long social media post on April 2, amid speculations that the U.S. would launch a ground offensive in Iran. "Let me tell you something straight from the gut. Iranians don't just talk about defending their country, we bleed for it. We have done it before and we are ready to do it again," he added. Mr. Ghalibaf's comments were the strongest warning against any U.S. plan to launch a ground attack.

Already the face of Iran's resistance, Mr. Ghalibaf, 64, wrote back-to-back social media posts, often rebutting U.S. President Donald Trump's claims that Iran had been defeated, and reminding the U.S. and the wider world of the real economic costs of the war. Late last month, Mr. Trump threatened to destroy Iran's power plants and other civilian infrastructure if Tehran did not reopen the Strait of Hormuz and agree to a deal. Iran did not flinch.

On April 8, Mr. Trump announced a two-week ceasefire (which was extended later). As the U.S. shifted from active war to diplomacy, Mr. Ghalibaf, a former Revolutionary Guard commander and a police chief, emerged as the chief negotiator of the Islamic Republic.

Before the U.S. and Israel launched the war on Iran on February 28, Mr. Ghalibaf was just one of the top leaders. Constitutionally, the elected President holds the most powerful position in Iran after the Supreme Leader. But President Masoud Pezeshkian's focus had been on running the day-to-day affairs of the country. When it came to matters of security and strategy, Ali Khamenei had three confidants – Ali Shamkhani, chief of the newly created Defence Council; Ali Larijani, Secretary of the Security Council; and M.B. Ghalibaf.

Of the three, Larijani, a bridge between Iran's security establishment and its civilian political class, was arguably the most influential. Khamenei and Shamkhani were assassinated on February 28, the first day of the war. Larijani, who had emerged as a wartime leader, was killed in an Israeli strike on March 17. In a country caught between external attacks and internal pressure, with much of its top leadership killed by its enemies, Mr. Ghalibaf, who cut his teeth in the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war, emerged as the new apparatchik in charge. He embraced the role with a mix of revolutionary fervour and pragmatic resolve.

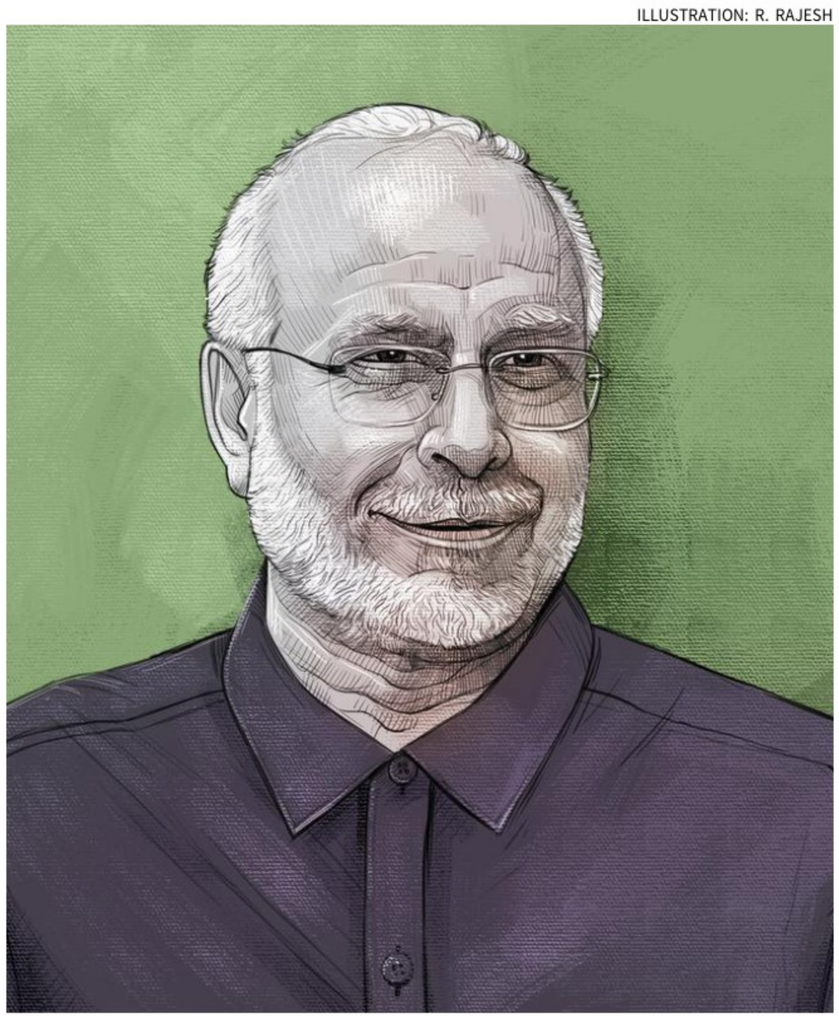
Links to IRGC

Born in 1961 in the small city of Torqabeh in northeast Iran, Mohammad Ghalibaf was barely an adult when the country witnessed its biggest political earthquake of the century. Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, the monarch of Iran, was toppled by a mass movement in February 1979. Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, a top Shia cleric who was in exile in France, returned to the country to take the reins of the post-Shah Iran. In the subsequent weeks and months, Iran underwent a radical transformation from a secular dictatorial monarchy to an Islamist theocratic semi-democracy.

Khomeini founded the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), an ideologically driven paramilitary group whose primary job was to protect the revolution and the state. Like many of his generation, Mr. Ghalibaf was also moved by what French philosopher Michel Foucault called the "political spirituality" and the "collective will" of the revolution. When Iraq invaded Iran in 1980, Mr. Ghalibaf joined the war as a frontline soldier of the IRGC.

His brother Hassan was killed during the conflict. "Back when I was 18 years old, I grabbed my rifle and ran straight into the fight to defend... Iran, the only home I ever knew," Mr. Ghalibaf said recently, recalling the Iran-Iraq war. "My own brother, Hassan, laid it all on the line in that same fight for our homeland. I still ache to wrap my arms around him one more time. That kind of pain never leaves a man," he said. In 1982, at age 21, he became the chief commander of the IRGC Imam Reza Brigade and then

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH



the chief commander of the Fifth Nasr Division. In 1994, four years after the Iran-Iraq war, he was appointed the head of the Khatam Al-Anbia Construction, the engineering arm of the IRGC, by Ali Khamenei.

Mr. Ghalibaf studied political geography at the University of Tehran for his master's degree and completed his PhD on the evolution of local institutions in Iran at Tarbiat Modares University. His rise as one of the key figures of the Islamic Republic was cemented in 1997 when Ali Khamenei named him as the IRGC Aerospace Force commander. He also completed Airbus pilot training in France and served as a professor of political geography at the University of Tehran. In October 2024, amid Israeli air strikes on Lebanon, Mr. Ghalibaf appeared in a video showing him at the controls of an aircraft approaching Beirut.

In Iran's political spectrum, divided between 'principalists' (hardliners) and moderates/reformists, Mr. Ghalibaf placed himself as a centre-conservative politician. In July 1999, when Tehran University students held sustained protests demanding reforms, Mr. Ghalibaf was among a group of commanders who signed a letter to reformist President Mohammed Khatami, asking him to end the unrest. The commanders said their "cup of patience was full" and they would take action "if the government did not control the unrest", according to the confidential letter, which was published by the *Kayhan* newspaper.

In 2005, he became Mayor of Tehran, after an unsuccessful presidential bid. As Mayor, he was seen by many as "the man who gets things done", but he also faced corruption allegations over the functioning of the city administration.

Mr. Ghalibaf ran for president again in 2013. This time, he was the main conservative candidate, but finished second to Hassan Rouhani, the moderate cleric who later signed the 2015 nuclear deal with the U.S. In 2020, after principalists regained a majority in the Majles, Mr. Ghalibaf was elected Speaker of the House.

Turbulent phase

His speakership has coincided with one of the most tumultuous phases in the history of the Islamic Republic. A sitting President was killed in a helicopter crash; the Supreme Leader was assassinated; and the country, his "beloved, unbreakable Iran", was bombed twice. There were also massive protests, which he dismissed as being led by "terrorists". Even when the political environment around him was radically transformed, Mr. Ghalibaf has remained largely nonchalant.

He once aspired to become President of the Islamic Republic. Now, he is arguably a more influential figure than the President himself. Many of his comrades were killed in the war. Even with a ceasefire in place with the U.S., the conflict is far from resolved. Washington continues to exert economic pressure on Iran through a blockade in the Gulf of Oman. The Islamic Republic may have survived the war, but its economy remains in deep trouble.

For Mr. Ghalibaf, the biggest challenge of his military and political career still lies ahead: steering the country, now ruled by a mysterious new Supreme Leader who is reportedly wounded, out of the war with a favourable strategic outcome, but without yielding to the diktats of the 'Great Satan'. "We do not accept negotiations under the shadow of threats," he said on April 20. "Over the past two weeks we have been preparing to reveal new cards on the battlefield," he added.

THE GIST

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- In 2005, he became Mayor of Tehran, after an unsuccessful presidential bid. As Mayor, he was seen by many as "the man who gets things done", but he also faced corruption allegations
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A man for all seasons

Dinesh Trivedi

A politician with close ties to West Bengal, the BJP leader heads to Dhaka as India's envoy, with a mandate to reset ties with the neighbour

Nistula Hebbar

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

Several factors are cited for the appointment of Dinesh Trivedi, 75, as India's new High Commissioner to Bangladesh.

Foremost among them is that, as a politician of Gujarati heritage who has represented West Bengal throughout his career and speaks several languages, including Bangla, he is seen as well placed to help reset ties with Dhaka.

That, of course, is only half the story. Mr. Trivedi, born to Gujarati parents who left Karachi during Partition and made their home in Kolkata, seemed destined for a corporate career, armed with a business degree from the University of Texas at Austin. Yet his ambitions ranged widely – from joining the Indian Air Force as a pilot (he later trained as a commercial pilot) to studying acting at the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) in Pune.

Having dabbled in all these pursuits, Mr. Trivedi eventually started his own freight business.

His plunge into public service and his long career in politics stemmed from his setting up a consumer protection centre in Kolkata, on the advice of the seer Swami Chinmayananda. His demand that the Supreme Court make public the 1993 report of the Vohra Committee on corruption in politics [submitted by former Home Secretary N.N. Vohra] proved, in the long run, to be a precursor to the Right to Information Act.

Political sphere

This brought him into the political sphere, first in the Congress, and later, as part of a breakaway group that left the party with V.P. Singh; as a founding member of the Jan Morcha [1987], and, in 1998, as a founding member of the Trinamool Congress with Mamata Banerjee. By then, Mr. Trivedi's public life had firmly taken root in West Bengal.

A trained sitar player, Mr. Trivedi's amiable nature made him an unusual fit for the Trinamool, a party known for its street-fighting credentials. Yet, it was Mr. Trivedi's hectic parleys with the BJP-led NDA and the Congress-led UPA government in 2006 that led the then President of India, A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, to express serious concern over Ms. Banerjee's 26-day hunger strike against the Tata Nano plant in Singur – ground zero of her rise to power in West Bengal.

At that time, Ms. Banerjee had already exited the NDA and was yet to ally with the UPA, which she did in 2009.

He has served two terms in the Lok Sabha (2009-2019), and three terms in the Rajya Sabha, the last of which he quit in 2021, after differences with the Trinamool parliamentary party in the Rajya Sabha. He subsequently joined the BJP.

He has also held ministerial positions, the most notable being his brief stint as Railway Minister in the second UPA government. In 2012, he presented the Railway Budget, overruling Mamata Banerjee's directive against a fare hike, only to find he had been replaced overnight by the late Mukul Roy, who then piloted the Budget through both Houses of Parliament. Across these eventful years, he helped found the India-European Union Parliamentary Group, of which he remains a member.

In 2020, Mr. Trivedi also became a board member of the South Centre, a permanent intergovernmental organisation of 55 developing countries (the Global South) based in Geneva, Switzerland, that serves as a policy research think tank.

Challenges ahead

At ease both on the campaign trail in Barrackpore in West Bengal and in the behind-the-scenes negotiations that underpinned much of coalition-era politics in India, Mr. Trivedi embodies what Oscar Wilde observed: that the man who can dominate the dinner tables of London (in Delhi's case, the Lutyens' Zone) can dominate the world.

His challenges in Bangladesh include not just resetting the relationship in terms of trust and goodwill, but also renewing the Ganga Water Treaty, which expires this December after 30 years in force.

It is a delicate negotiation that will require the full measure of the skills Mr. Trivedi has honed over a storied career, now brought to bear in a foreign capital.

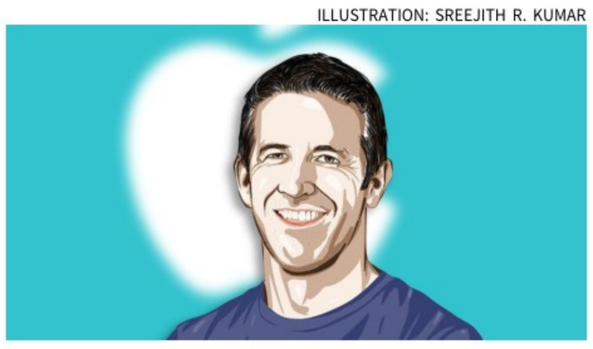
Apple's quiet architect

John Ternus

While Tim Cook leaves a lasting legacy, the company's new CEO will face a lot of pressure to redefine its strategy and products in the age of AI

John Xavier

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR



When Apple announced its next CEO, most people would not have heard the name John Ternus. But to insiders, the man has been behind the company's most valuable products.

From the iPod to iPhone Air, and even the most recent MAC Neo, Mr. Ternus's signature is on almost all devices designed at Cupertino. He has spent the past quarter century at the Silicon Valley giant, supporting CEO Tim Cook grow Apple from a $350 billion company to a $4 trillion behemoth.

Mr. Ternus received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering with a major in mechanical engineering from the University of Pennsylvania in 1997. After graduating, he joined Virtual Research Systems as a mechanical engineer. Virtual Research Systems was part of the early virtual reality wave of the 1980s and 1990s, where Mr. Ternus worked on VR headsets and immersive technologies, an experience that would prove invaluable for his work on Apple's Vision Pro.

He arrived at Apple in 2001 and joined the company's product design team. Over the following 12 years he climbed steadily. A Bloomberg report described him as "charismatic and well-liked". By 2013, he had become vice-president of hardware engineering. And by 2021, he was senior vice-president, taking over the role from Dan Riccio and stepping into the executive team.

His team was behind every generation of iPad, the latest iPhone lineup, and AirPods. He also played a crucial role in the Mac's transition to Apple silicon, a move that weaned Apple from relying on Intel for chipsets, and a portfolio that would be the envy of any hardware engineer. Under his leadership, the Mac became more powerful and more popular than at any point in its four-decade history. His team redefined the iPhone lineup with the iPhone 17 Pro and Pro Max, as well as the strikingly thin iPhone Air. He drove AirPods to become, arguably, the world's best in-ear headphones, with noise cancellation that set a new industry benchmark and the addition of over-the-counter hearing aid capability.

For all that technical achievement, Mr. Ternus has remained distinctly away from the limelight. His public appearances have been almost entirely confined to Apple's own product events, where he has presented new hardware with an easy confidence that made clear he understood what he was talking about at a molecular level. On naming Mr. Ternus as his successor, Mr. Cook said he has "the mind of an engineer, the soul of an innovator, and the heart to lead with integrity and honour."

Work-in-progress

But the challenges ahead for Mr. Ternus are formidable. Apple's AI strategy remains a work-in-progress, Siri has fallen behind rivals, and geopolitical headwinds continue to complicate the company's global supply chain.

While Mr. Cook leaves a lasting legacy, there will be a lot of pressure on Mr. Ternus to redefine Apple in the age of AI. In the past 15 years, under Mr. Cook's leadership, the company has largely played the role of a custodian of Steve Jobs' legacy. It is now time to experiment on some new form factors and discard a few older ones.

Apple is trailing behind Samsung and Huawei in foldable phones. While the duo have shipped successive generations of foldable smartphones and smart rings, Apple has largely remained stuck with its tried and tested form factor and product portfolios. There are signs of change at Cupertino, particularly with the recent launch of the thinnest iPhone – iPhone Air – and MacBook Neo, that signal more hardware redesigns in the future.

Mr Ternus's background in hardware engineering and design makes him well-suited to lead Apple's charge. However, he's stepping into a potentially pivotal moment for the company. The lag in AI adoption is a major concern and he'll be overseeing it at a time when global supply chains are under strain. Apple's developer conference in June will offer an early indication of how he intends to steer the company through that transition – and whether its quiet architect can now become its defining leader.

LONDON

Downing Street says sovereignty of Falklands Islands rest with the U.K.

AP

A spokesperson for Prime Minister Keir Starmer said the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands rests with Britain, after a Pentagon memo mulled reviewing the U.S. position on the region as punishment for Britain's stance on the Iran war. Britain and Argentina fought a war in 1982 after Argentina made a failed bid to take the islands. REUTERS

BANGKOK

Chinese Foreign Minister meets Myanmar President, renews ties

AP

China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi met Min Aung Hlaing, the leader of Myanmar's military-backed government in a move aimed at strengthening Beijing's ties in Southeast Asia. Mr. Wang's visit to capital Naypyitaw comes after the junta chief was sworn in as President on April 10. AP

KYIV

Overnight Russian strikes kill five in Ukraine; woman killed in Russia

REUTERS

Russian drone and missile strikes on the Ukrainian city of Dnipro killed at least five people and wounded 46, authorities said on Saturday. In Russia, a woman was killed by a Ukrainian drone strike in Belgorod. The overnight attacks followed a prisoner swap on Friday, in which both countries exchanged 193 service members. AP

WASHINGTON

Bill seeking three-year pause on H-1B visas moved in U.S. Congress

REUTERS

A group of Republican lawmakers has introduced a bill in the U.S. Congress for a three-year pause to the H1-B visa programme, contending that it has been hijacked to replace Americans with foreign workers. Indian professionals, including tech workers and physicians, form one of the largest groups of H-1B visa holders. PTI

U.S. slaps sanctions on China-based refinery, shippers over Iran oil trade

Washington targets Hengli Petrochemical and 40 firms, vessels for helping Tehran sell oil; Beijing buys more than 80% of Iran's shipped oil; sanctions aim to restrict Iran's oil exports; experts say targeting Chinese banks would have greater effect

Reuters
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump's administration said on Friday it imposed sanctions on an independent "teapot" refinery in China for buying billions of dollars' worth of Iranian oil, as Washington and Tehran head into another round of peace talks over the weekend.

The Treasury Department targeted Hengli Petrochemical (Dalian) Refinery, which it said is one of Iran's largest customers of crude oil and petroleum products. The department's Office of Foreign Assets Control said it also imposed sanctions on about 40 shipping companies and vessels that operate as part of Iran's shadow fleet.

Crude cut-off: Hengli Petrochemical's refinery complex at Changxing island in Dalian, Liaoning province, China. REUTERS

China has earlier said it opposes "illegal" unilateral sanctions. The Trump administration last year imposed sanctions on teapots Hebei Xinhai Chemical Group, Shandong Shouguang Luqing Petrochemical, and Shandong Shengxing Chemical.

It created hurdles for the refiners, including difficulties receiving crude and having to sell products under different names. Teapots account for a quarter of Chinese refinery capacity, operate with narrow and sometimes negative margins, and have been squeezed by tepid domestic demand.

The U.S. sanctions, which block U.S. assets of those designated and prevent Americans from doing business with them, have deterred some larger independent refiners from buying Iranian oil. China buys more than 80% of Iran's shipped oil, 2025 data from analytics firm Kpler showed.

Sanctions experts have long said, however, that the independent refineries are somewhat immune to the full effect of U.S. sanctions as they have little exposure to the U.S. financial system. Imposing sanctions on China's banks that help facilitate the purchases would have a larger effect on purchases of Iranian oil, they say.

'Financial stranglehold'

U.S. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said Washington is imposing a "financial stranglehold" on the Iranian government. "Treasury will continue to constrict the network of vessels, intermediaries, and buyers Iran relies on to move its oil to global markets," Mr. Bessent said.

Afghans who helped U.S. in war can return, say Taliban

Agence France-Presse
KABUL

The Taliban government said on Saturday that Afghans who fled to Qatar, fearing reprisals over their collaboration with U.S. forces, may return home "with full confidence".

The administration of U.S. President Donald Trump, which has made a sweeping crackdown on immigration a signature policy, had given a March 31 deadline to close a camp where more than 1,100 Afghans were staying at a former U.S. base in Qatar.

Afghans have been going through the base for processing while seeking to move to the U.S., fearing persecution by Taliban authorities for having worked with U.S. forces.

"According to media reports, a number of Afghan nationals who had been awaiting U.S. visas in Qatar have been asked to choose between the repatriation to Afghanistan or resettlement in a third country," Foreign Ministry spokesman Abdul Qahar Balkhi said in a statement posted on X.

In limbo: Immigrants from Afghanistan walk through a processing centre after their evacuation at Camp As Sayliyah, Qatar. REUTERS

"Afghanistan constitutes the shared homeland of all Afghans & it invites all those concerned... (to) return to their homeland, whose doors remain open to them, with full confidence & peace of mind."

The head of AfghanEvac, a group seeking to help former Afghan allies, said: "You do not relocate vetted wartime allies, more than 400 of them children, from American custody into a country in the middle of its own collapse".

Israeli strikes kill 13 people in Gaza, local authorities say

Associated Press
TEL AVIV

Palestinians on Saturday buried a woman pregnant with twins and two of her children who were among at least 13 people killed in Israeli strikes in Gaza.

Despite an October ceasefire, Gaza remains gripped by daily violence as Israeli strikes continue and both the Israeli military and Hamas accuse one another of breaking the truce.

The toll on Friday included two men who were killed in Gaza City, and eight others killed in the southern city of Khan Younis, according to local hospitals. Officials at Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis said the eight people, including four police officers, were killed after Israel targeted a police vehicle. Khalid Al-Tanani, of Beit Lahiya, recalled the series of strikes that killed his wife and two of his four children in the northern Gaza Strip.

Those killed include a woman pregnant with twins. Israel has killed more than 790 people since the truce came into effect

"With the first shell, thank God we all survived and were calling out to each other. Then they fired the second, third, and fourth shells one after the other. Their voices fell silent. I went inside and found my wife martyred, and my children in her mother's arms. I found them martyred." The children were 4 and 13 years old.

Israel's military said several militants had threatened troops in the area and the military targeted them in an airstrike after warning civilians. Mr. Al-Tanani said the strikes came without prior notice.

Israel's military said it had targeted two militants that threatened its troops in Gaza City and did not comment on the third strike in Khan Younis that killed eight.

Hamas condemned the "barbaric Zionist attacks that reached all parts of the Gaza Strip since this morning".

Israeli attacks have killed more than 790 people since the fragile ceasefire was put in place on October 10, according to Gaza's Health Ministry.

Lebanon says Israeli strikes in country's south kill four

Agence France-Presse
BEIRUT

Lebanon's Health Ministry said Israeli strikes on Saturday in the country's south killed four people, despite a ceasefire that was extended this week in the war between Israel and militant group Hezbollah.

"Two Israeli enemy strikes in the town of Yohmor al-Shaqeef in the Nabatieh district killed four people," a Ministry statement said. The deaths came after Israeli strikes killed six people in south Lebanon on Friday.

U.S. President Donald Trump announced on Thursday that a 10-day ceasefire which began on April 17 had been extended for three weeks.

OpenAI chief apologises for failing to flag Canadian mass shooting suspect

Associated Press
VANCOUVER

The head of OpenAI has written a letter apologising that his company did not alert law enforcement to the online behaviour of a person who shot and killed eight people in British Columbia, Canada. In the letter posted on Friday, Sam Altman expressed his deepest condolences to the Canadian community of Tumbler Ridge.

"I am deeply sorry that we did not alert law enforcement to the account that was banned in June," Mr. Altman said. "While I know words can never be enough, I believe an apology is necessary to recognise the harm and irreversible loss your community has suffered."

A makeshift memorial to the victims of a deadly mass shooting at a school in the town of Tumbler Ridge, British Columbia. REUTERS

On February 10, police say an 18-year-old alleged shooter, identified as Jesse Van Rootselaar, killed her mother and 11-year-old stepbrother in their home before heading to the Tumbler Ridge Secondary School and opening fire, killing five children and an educator before killing herself.

After the shootings, OpenAI said that last June the company identified Van Rootselaar's account using abuse detection efforts for "furtherance of violent activities." The San Francisco tech company said it considered whether to refer the account to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police but determined at the time that the account activity did not meet a threshold for referral to law enforcement.

At the time, British Columbia Premier David Eby said it "looks like" OpenAI had the opportunity to prevent the mass shooting.

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IPL ROYALTY

Rahul becomes first Indian to cross the 150-run mark in an innings

R.V. MOORTHY

Delhi Capitals' K.L. Rahul became the first Indian to cross 150 runs in an IPL innings with his 67-ball unbeaten 152 against Punjab Kings at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Saturday. Only RCB's Chris Gayle (175 n.o. vs. PWI in 2013) and KKR's Brendon McCullum (158 n.o. vs. RCB in 2008) are above Rahul on the list.

BLUNT ASSESSMENT

Feel we deserved to lose for giving away so many chances: DC's Axar

R.V. MOORTHY

If you don't support your bowlers and keep giving away so many chances, then I feel we deserved to lose. It was a good pitch and a small ground... so sixes were always going to be hit. When chances arise and you don't take even one, it becomes difficult. It can't keep happening that you repeat the same mistakes — DC's Axar Patel.

ALL IS WELL

'Ngidi is stable, will be discharged from the hospital shortly'

R.V. MOORTHY

Lungi Ngidi of Delhi Capitals hit his head on the ground while attempting to take a catch during the match against Punjab Kings. He was shifted to the hospital in an ambulance as he complained of headache and neck pain. Ngidi is stable and will be discharged from hospital shortly — a statement on IPL's official handle on X.

TRAILBLAZER

Suryavanshi becomes youngest to score 1,000 runs in T20s

SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

With his third 15-ball fifty in this IPL season, Vaibhav Suryavanshi (15 years, 29 days) became the youngest player to score 1,000 runs in T20 cricket. He is now the fastest player to reach the milestone in the format by balls (473), breaking the record held by Mitchell Owen (533).

Marauding Kings willow-wielders scale newer heights

The Punjab side betters its own record by chasing down 265 against Delhi Capitals; Rahul's 67-ball unbeaten 152 bears no fruit as Prabhsimran and Shreyas help the visitor clinch a six-wicket victory

IPL-19

Vivek Krishnan
NEW DELHI

What will it take for Punjab Kings to be vanquished in IPL 2026? For, a target of 265 wasn't adequate on Saturday to halt its unbeaten run.

Two years after chasing down 262 against Kolkata Knight Riders, PBKS bettered its own record by tracking down 265 against Delhi Capitals at the Arun Jaitley Stadium.

With Prabhsimran Singh smashing a 26-ball 76 (9x4, 5x6) and Shreyas Iyer an unbeaten 71 (36b, 3x4, 7x6), Kings clinched a six-wicket win with seven balls to spare.

Runs galore: Rahul's terrific century, the highest by an Indian in the tournament, was shaded by Prabhsimran and Shreyas' brilliance. R.V. MOORTHY

Frantic evening

On a frantic evening replete with big hits, dropped catches, nerve-wracking drama and an unfortunate injury to Lungi Ngidi, PBKS was not deterred by a K.L. Rahul-inspired DC.

Earlier, Rahul had slammed an unbeaten 152 off 67 balls (16x4, 9x6) to lift the host to 264 for two – its highest in the tournament's history.

The opener's score is the highest by an Indian in 19 seasons of the IPL, and his century off 47 balls is also his fastest.

With Nitish Rana (91, 44b, 11x4, 4x6) also playing his part, a partnership of 220 between the duo was the second-highest behind Virat Kohli and A.B. de Villiers' 229-run stand for Royal Challengers Bengaluru in 2016.

For all of DC's brilliance, PBKS' riposte was even more sublime.

Led by a 126-run alliance between openers Prabhsimran and Priyansh Arya in merely 6.5 overs, the visitor deflated the morale of Axar Patel's men.

Prabhsimran went on the rampage against the new ball, lifting his troops to 116 for none after six overs to set the foundation. He was in a belligerent mood against all and sundry, repeatedly smashing the slot balls that DC's medium-pacers dished out. That Capitals didn't have Ngidi's services due to a head and neck injury in the third over was a big blow.

It appeared when Priyansh and Prabhsimran were dismissed in quick succession that the momentum would swing again.

But Shreyas' leadership and calmness under pressure came to the fore once more as he saw the team through with a superb knock.

Neither side, however, did itself any favours with its fielding.

If Rahul was dropped on 12 by Shashank Singh, DC returned the favour when Karun Nair spilled Shreyas on 28 and 35.

SCOREBOARD

DELHI CAPITALS

Pathum Nissanka c Prabhsimran b Arshdeep 11 *(7b, 2x4)*, K.L. Rahul (not out) 152 *(67b, 16x4, 9x6)*, Nitish Rana c Shreyas b Bartlett 91 *(44b, 11x4, 4x6)*, David Miller (not out) 3 *(3b)*; Extras (nb-1, w-6): 7; Total (for two wkts. in 20 overs): 264.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-28 (Nissanka, 2.4 overs), 2-248 (Nitish, 18.3).

KINGS BOWLING

Arshdeep 4-0-49-1, Bartlett 4-0-69-1, Jansen 4-0-45-0, Vyshak 3-0-48-0, Chahal 4-0-42-0, Stoinis 1-0-11-0.

PUNJAB KINGS

Priyansh Arya c Rizvi b Axar 43 *(17b, 2x4, 5x6)*, Prabhsimran Singh lbw b Kuldeep 76 *(26b, 9x4, 5x6)*, Cooper Connolly b Kuldeep 17 *(10b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Shreyas Iyer (not out) 71 *(36b, 3x4, 7x6)*, Nehal Wadhera **(Impact Player for Chahal)** c (sub) Karun b Vipraj 25 *(15b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Shashank Singh (not out) 19 *(10b, 2x4, 1x6)*; Extras (lb-1, nb-1, w-12): 14; Total (for four wkts. in 18.5 overs): 265.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-126 (Priyansh, 6.5), 2-132 (Prabhsimran, 7.3), 3-145 (Connolly, 9.2), 4-201 (Wadhera, 14.3).

CAPITALS BOWLING

Nabi **(Impact Player for Nissanka)** 2-0-41-0, Mukesh 3-0-55-0, Axar 4-0-44-1, Natarajan 3.5-0-54-0, Kuldeep 4-0-46-2, Vipraj *(concussion substitute for Ngidi)* 2-0-24-1.

Toss: Delhi Capitals.

Player-of-the-Match: Rahul.

Kings won by six wickets with seven balls to spare.

Next assignment

DC: April 27 vs. RCB
Delhi, 7.30 p.m.

PBKS: April 28 vs. RR
New Chandigarh, 7.30 p.m.

Points table

	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
Punjab Kings	7	6	0	1	13	1.333
Royal Challengers	7	5	2	0	10	1.101
Sunrisers Hyderabad	8	5	3	0	10	0.815
Rajasthan Royals	8	5	3	0	10	0.602
Chennai Super Kings	7	3	4	0	6	0.118
Delhi Capitals	7	3	4	0	6	-0.184
Gujarat Titans	7	3	4	0	6	-0.790
Mumbai Indians	7	2	5	0	4	-0.736
Lucknow Super Giants	7	2	5	0	4	-1.277
Kolkata Knight Riders	7	1	5	1	3	-0.879

How the Ngidi incident happened

Vivek Krishnan
NEW DELHI

Lungi Ngidi suffered a serious head and neck injury during Delhi Capitals' clash against Punjab Kings at the Arun Jaitley Stadium here on Saturday evening. The incident, off the third ball of the third over in PBKS' chase, led to a considerable interruption.

When Priyansh Arya miscued a big hit off Axar Patel, the ball soared in the direction of mid-off and Ngidi sprinted backwards in an attempt to get under the skier.

The South African ended up misjudging the catch, and then fell on the floor whilst the back of his head slammed the turf. Ngidi instantly clutched his head in pain, sparking the attention of his teammates. The medical staff at the venue rushed onto the field and a stretcher was brought in even as Ngidi lay static on the turf.

As concern grew over Ngidi's condition, an ambulance entered the outfield. By the time the pacer was moved inside the ambulance on the stretcher, play had been halted for roughly 16 minutes.

Ngidi was taken to Max Hospital in Pusa Road for treatment.

Suryavanshi's blitz in vain as SRH aces big chase

Pranay Rajiv
JAIPUR

There were three Indian left-handed top-order batters running riot on Saturday - Vaibhav Suryavanshi for Rajasthan Royals; Ishan Kishan and Abhishek Sharma for Sunrisers Hyderabad.

The trio engaged in a prolonged game of one-upmanship, dazzling an electric crowd at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium with their batting flair.

The opening riposte came from Suryavanshi's blade. The 15-year-old, banking on his outrageous gift of timing, blazed away to a 36-ball hundred as Royals thundered to 228 for six after being inserted.

Royals' seemingly mammoth target, though, couldn't withstand the combined counter-punch from Kishan and Abhishek. Their 132-run second-wicket partnership laid the foundation for SRH's emphatic five-wicket win in IPL 2026 - its sixth consecutive triumph against the Royals.

Playing no small part in SRH's win was a sub-par fielding effort from the home team. Even the ever-reliable Ravindra Jadeja dropped an offering from Abhishek.

Unbothered by all of it, Kishan and Abhishek unleashed mayhem early on as they cut and slashed at anything remotely wide of the stumps to take SRH to 89 for one in the PowerPlay.

The onslaught persisted into the middle overs, against spin and pace alike. Royals had a glimmer of hope when SRH lost both Kishan and Abhishek by the 13th over. But Heinrich Klaasen and Nitish Kumar were quick to extinguish that, as the visiting team coasted home with nine balls to spare.

The sizzlers: After Suryavanshi's blistering knock powered Royals to 228, Kishan led Sunrisers' riposte. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Next assignment

RR: April 28 vs. PBKS
New Chandigarh, 7.30 p.m.

SRH: April 29 vs. MI
Mumbai, 7.30 p.m.

Earlier, Suryavanshi enthralled the home crowd with an assortment of murderous pulls, sweetly-timed lofted drives and disdainful flicks.

He ignited his innings by walloping pacer Praful Hinge for four back-to-back sixes in the first over. There was an unmissable air of grudge-settling in that onslaught - Praful had, after all, dismissed Suryavanshi for a golden duck in the reverse fixture.

Suryavanshi sizzled on, before being dismissed right after he got to his hundred. As he trudged back to the dugout, an adoring Jaipur crowd offered him a standing ovation - a gesture that looks set to be a routine exercise for them in the years to come.

Unfortunately for the Royals' faithful, the game was to go downhill for them from there on.

SCOREBOARD

RAJASTHAN ROYALS

Yashasvi Jaiswal c Klaasen b Malinga 10 *(8b, 2x4)*, Vaibhav Suryavanshi lbw b Sakib 103 *(37b, 5x4, 12x6)*, Dhruv Jurel c Aniket b Nitish 51 *(35b, 8x4, 1x6)*, Riyan Parag b Cummins 7 *(9b)*, Donovan Ferreira c Klaasen b Malinga 33 *(16b, 3x4, 3x6)*, Shimron Hetmyer c Nitish b Hinge 11 *(10b, 1x4)*, Ravindra Jadeja (not out) 4 *(3b)*, Jofra Archer (not out) 2 *(2b)*; Extras (lb-1, w-6): 13; Total (for six wkts. in 20 overs): 228.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-40 (Jaiswal, 2.2 overs), 2-152 (Jurel, 12.4), 3-170 (Suryavanshi, 13.5), 4-191 (Parag, 16.1), 5-214 (Ferreira, 18.4), 6-225 (Hetmyer, 19.3).

SUNRISERS BOWLING

Praful 4-0-49-1, Cummins 4-0-27-1, Malinga 4-0-38-2, Sakib 4-0-62-1, Shivang 2-0-31-0, Nitish 2-0-20-1.

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD

Travis Head **(Impact Player for Sakib)** c Jurel b Archer 6 *(5b, 1x6)*, Abhishek Sharma c Archer b Ferreira 57 *(29b, 11x4, 1x6)*, Ishan Kishan c Ferreira b Archer 74 *(31b, 11x4, 3x6)*, Heinrich Klaasen c Bishnoi b Brijesh 29 *(24b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Nitish Kumar lbw b Brijesh 36 *(18b, 2x4, 3x6)*, Salil Arora (not out) 8 *(3b, 1x6)*, Aniket Verma (not out) 1 *(1b)*; Extras (lb-5, w-13): 18; Total (for five wkts. in 18.3 overs): 229.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-7 (Head, 0.5), 2-139 (Abhishek, 9.6), 3-166 (Kishan, 12.1), 4-219 (Nitish, 17.2), 5-220 (Klaasen, 17.6).

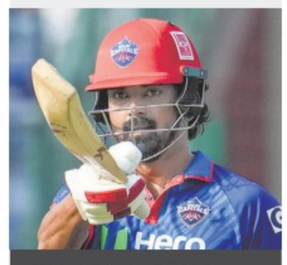
ROYALS BOWLING

Archer 4-0-34-2, Burger 3.3-0-50-0, Deshpande 3-0-43-0, Brijesh 4-0-44-2, Parag 1-0-12-0, Ferreira 1-0-14-1, Bishnoi **(Impact Player for Jaiswal)** 1-0-16-0, Jadeja 1-0-11-0.

Toss: Sunrisers; **PoM:** Kishan.

SRH won by five wickets with nine balls remaining.

Impact Index



1 Rahul is the first player to win the Player-of-the-Match award in a losing cause this season. He also registered the highest T20 score (152 n.o.) in a losing cause

1 For the first time, 10 bowlers conceded 40-plus runs in an IPL match (DC vs. PBKS)

2 Suryavanshi's 36-ball century is the second-fastest by an Indian, only behind his 35-ball ton against GT in 2025

2 Rahul is the second player after Kohli to score three hundreds in a losing cause

7 Suryavanshi has equalled the record for most sixes (held by Jayasuriya, Bairstow, Abhishek) in the PowerPlay

7 Shreyas has the second most fifties while chasing 200-plus scores. Kohli (8) tops the list

26 Suryavanshi has taken the fewest innings (26) to score four hundreds in T20s

56 In 93 games as captain, Shreyas is behind only Dhoni (57) for most wins

116 Kings now has the second highest PowerPlay total after SRH's 125/0 (vs. DC, 2024)

Compiled by Anirudh Velamuri

Bullish Super Kings take strike against timid Titans

CSK will be brimming with confidence after the 103-run win over MI; Samson's form and the bowlers' performance have lifted the side; GT has to rethink its top-order-heavy batting strategy

IPL-19

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

In a multi-team competition like the IPL, there comes a moment when one defining performance can transform a team's fortunes. Chennai Super Kings will feel it has received that much-needed booster dose in its 103-run thrashing of Mumbai Indians a couple of nights ago in the latter's backyard.

CSK will now look to build on that thumping victory when it takes on a stuttering Gujarat Titans in an afternoon fixture at the MAC Stadium here on Sunday.

Super Kings' stupendous win on Thursday was set up by Sanju Samson's fine century – his second of the season – and backed up by Akeal Hosein's clinical exhibition of spin bowling (four for 17). The margin of victory also helped CSK overturn a negative run rate into the green.

At the start of the season, the bowling attack lacked teeth, but it now seems to be firing on all cylinders, helping the Yellow Army win three of the last four matches.

> Dhoni is on the road to recovery and doing everything that's being asked of him
>
> **FLEMING**
> CSK head coach

On the batting front, while Samson has been the standout performer, the team desperately needs the likes of skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad, Shivam Dube and Sarfaraz Khan to pull their weight.

On the other hand, GT, from putting the right team on the park to changing its approach, has a lot of work to do. The 2022 champion is too dependent on the top three of Shubman Gill, B. Sai Sudharsan and Jos Buttler. The brittle middle-order hasn't come good, forcing the top-order to play conservatively. One could make a case for either Nishant Sindhu or Anuj Rawat to slot into the middle for any incumbent.

Though the visitors have a potent pace attack, it will be interesting to see if local lad R. Sai Kishore gets a game to complement Rashid Khan. Considering it is an afternoon game, the toss is unlikely to play a huge factor. Can CSK continue to press on?

Game-changer: Akeal's PowerPlay bowling has been potent and accurate. R. RAGU

LSG and KKR face off in a battle of laggards

Sahil Mathur
LUCKNOW

A mid-season clash between two struggling sides – Lucknow Super Giants and Kolkata Knight Riders – in IPL 2026 can either simmer into a slow burn or explode into a high-stakes shootout as both teams push to revive their campaigns. Given the setting, the former appears more likely, despite the Ekana Stadium here being one of the spicy venues in IPL 2026.

Super Giants have lost all three of their home games so far, with captain Rishabh Pant admitting the batting unit hasn't adapted well to the conditions.

On Sunday, LSG will host KKR on a black-soil surface in an evening game, a pitch that will be used for the first time this season.

Super Giants' spin bowling coach Carl Crowe, however, didn't want to read too much into the change in conditions. "From a foreign perspective, sometimes we can make a bit too much of the conditions before the game, whether it's red soil, black soil, or mixed," he said on the eve of the fixture.

"If you come in with a preconceived idea of how a certain pitch is going to play, you limit your plan," Crowe added.

Ideally, Knight Riders would have enjoyed these conditions with a full-strength pace attack, but injuries have left them stretched, with Kartik Tyagi the only pacer stepping in consistently.

Spinners have had minimal impact so far in three games here - five wickets compared to 23 for pacers. Things could change if the surface plays as per its characteristics, making Sunil Narine and Varun Chakaravarthy key for KKR.

The pitch is unlikely to ease batting concerns for either side, and things point to a slow grind on a warm evening.

But these are the same two teams that produced the season's first thriller in Kolkata not long ago. With early elimination pressure building, another high-intensity contest can't be ruled out.

Big challenge: Super Giants will look to turn things around at home after three straight defeats. PTI

Today's matches

Chennai, 3.30 p.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 8
CSK 4 | GT 4
PREVIOUS MEETING
CSK won by 83 runs, 2025

Lucknow, 7.30 p.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 7
LSG 5 | KKR 2
PREVIOUS MEETING
LSG won by three wickets, 2026

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1, 2 & JIOHOTSTAR

India women notch up 185 in fourth T20I against SA

INDIA IN SA

Press Trust of India
JOHANNESBURG

India batters failed to build on their starts against a disciplined set of South African bowlers, posting a below-par 185 for five in the fourth T20I here on Saturday.

After being sent in to bat, the Women in Blue started off on a shaky note before Jemimah Rodrigues 43 (29b, 4x4, 2x6) and skipper Harmanpreet Kaur (22) added 55 runs for the third wicket. But just as India was gaining some momentum, Jemimah, who was dropped on 18, failed to connect a sweep off off-spinner Kayla Reyneke, losing her stumps.

Harmanpreet, too, looked a million dollars while walloping a six off Marx and four off Chloe Tryon, but Reyneke found the India captain's outside edge, which was snaffled by Sinalo Jafta behind the wickets.

Deepti Sharma (36 n.o., 26b) and Richa Ghosh (34 n.o., 18b) added 65 runs for the sixth wicket. The pair managed to score 56 runs in the last five overs to give their bowlers something to bowl with.

The scores:
India 185/5 in 20 overs (Jemimah 43, Deepti 36 n.o., Richa 34 n.o., Eliz-Mari 2/28, Reyneke 2/10).
Toss: SA.

Forget the old me: Padikkal on his T20 evolution

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Devdutt Padikkal's development in T20 cricket resembles growth spurts in a baby. Like how in the blink of an eye a child starts walking, talking and outgrowing its shoes, the 25-year-old southpaw's progress has come at an astonishing pace.

Against the Gujarat Titans in the Indian Premier League here on Friday (April 24, 2026), Padikkal provided another piece of evidence with a rollicking 27-ball 55 that helped Royal Challengers Bengaluru register an impressive five-wicket win.

It was his third half-century this campaign, after the 26-ball 61 versus Sunrisers Hyderabad and the 29-ball 50 against Chennai Super Kings, and all have come in victories.

"It's time we forget the previous version," Padikkal declared emphatically, when asked about his evolution.

"The conversations around me being different have been going on for far too long. This is who I am now."

The knock against the Titans will be extra special because he hit more sixes than fours (six to two), a quality that scores high in present-day T20 batting. His career IPL numbers are 69 sixes to 209 fours.

"The fact that I was able to hit six sixes was quite special. That's not something very common for me. I am more of a boundary [fours] hitter. So I feel this was my best innings in this IPL so far."

His elevation as Karnataka's captain during the 2025-26 Ranji Trophy season has helped, Padikkal stated. "Being a captain has made me think a lot more about how [opposing] bowlers and captains are thinking. It has given me a bit more understanding of the situations and how I need to respond. It has helped me find parts of my game and refine them."

Chuffed: The fact that I was able to hit six sixes was quite special, says Padikkal. K. MURALI KUMAR

Eze's rocket sends Arsenal back to the top of the table

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Arsenal returned to the top of the Premier League as Eberechi Eze's thunderbolt sealed a tense 1-0 win against Newcastle on Saturday.

Liverpool beat Crystal Palace 3-1 to climb into fourth place above Aston Villa, which earlier lost 1-0 at Fulham.

West Ham scored a late winner in a 2-1 win over Everton to stay two points clear of Tottenham, which beat Wolves 1-0, in the battle to avoid relegation.

Eze celebrates. REUTERS

The results: Premier League: Fulham 1 (Sessegnon 43) bt Aston Villa 0; Liverpool 3 (Isak 35, Robertson 40, Wirtz 90+6) bt Crystal Palace 1 (Munoz 71); West Ham 2 (Soucek 51, Wilson 90+2) bt Everton 1 (Dewsbury-Hall 88); Wolves 0 lost to Tottenham Hotspur 1 (Palhinha 82); Arsenal 1 (Eze 9) bt Newcastle 0.

LaLiga: Getafe 0 lost to Barcelona 2 (Lopez 45, Rashford 74).

Bundesliga: Mainz 3 (Kohr 15, Nebel 29, Becker 45+2) lost to Bayern Munich 4 (Jackson 53, Olise 73, Musiala 80, Kane 83); Cologne 1 (Waldschmidt 77) lost to Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Schick 43-pen, 52); Augsburg 1 (Kade 44) drew with Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Doan 66); .

On Friday: Premier League: Sunderland 0 lost to Nottingham Forest 5 (Hume 17-og, Wood 31, Gibbs-White 34, Jesus 37, 90+5).

LaLiga: Real Betis 1 (Bellerin 90+4) drew with Real Madrid 1 (Vinicius 17).

Serie A: Napoli 4 (McTominay 3, Terracciano 45-og, De Bruyne 45+2, Alisson 51) bt Cremonese 0.

Bundesliga: RB Leipzig 3 (Finkgraefe 22, Romulo 25, Baku 63) bt Union Berlin 1 (Doekhi 78).

Gurbax Singh.

Olympic medallist Gurbax Singh passes away

Press Trust of India
CHANDIGARH

Olympic hockey medallist Gurbax Singh Grewal has died following a heart attack at Zirakpur near here on Friday. He was 84. He was part of the Indian team that secured a bronze at the 1968 Mexico City Olympics.

In a rare distinction, he represented India at the same Olympics alongside his brother Balbir Singh Grewal, marking one of the few instances of siblings featuring together in the Indian hockey side at the Games.

Ham consolidates position at the top; Bhullar slips two spots to tied-fifth

SINGAPORE OPEN

S. Shrivathsan
SINGAPORE

South Korea's Jeongwoo Ham consolidated his position at the summit of the leaderboard, extending his advantage to four strokes in the third round of the Singapore Open here on Saturday. At the par-71 Sentosa Golf Club Serapong course, India's biggest hope Gaganjeet Bhullar slipped to tied-fifth, a place he shared with Ahmad Baig of Pakistan - one of the best performers of the day - and Jazz Janewattananond from Thailand.

Ham, who had held a two-shot cushion at the halfway stage of the International Series event, carded three-under 68 for a total score of 13-under 200.

Having created a stir in the first two rounds, the Korean ensured that two bogeys - on holes four and 11 - did not come back to haunt him.

Australian Cameron John catapulted to second after producing four-under 67 (overall score of nine-under 204), while Japan's Tomohiro Ishizaka (one-under 70, overall score of eight-under 205) stayed third and Julien Sale (two-under 69, overall score of seven-under 206) of France jumped to fourth.

John recovered from a bogey on hole five before delivering the final flourish with birdies on the last two holes, which made him the closest challenger to Ham.

Bhullar had been tied-third but dropped two spots after carding one-over 72 for a total of six-under 207. The Indian suffered an early setback when he double bogeyed on the par-four third hole, but he got two strokes back with as many birdies on the front nine.

The 37-year-old, however, went on to drop a shot on par-three hole 14.

"I thought that I played well but the score was not as good as the ones in the opening two rounds. Towards the end, I gave myself chances. It was just that I could not convert them," said Bhullar.

Pukhraj Singh Gill (one-over 72, total score of par-213) and Karandeep Kochhar (six-over 77, total score of six-over 219), the other Indians in the fray, stood at T45 and T67 respectively.

In top form: Ham extended his advantage to four strokes. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Top scores: 200 (64, 68, 68): Jeongwoo Ham (Kor); **204** (70, 67, 67): Cameron John (Aus). **205** (67, 68, 70): Tomohiro Ishizaka (Jpn); **206** (70, 67, 69): Julien Sale (Fra); **207** (69, 71, 67): Ahmad Baig (Pak); **207** (67, 68, 72): Gaganjeet Bhullar (Ind). **207** (68, 66, 73): Jazz Janewattananond (Tha).

(The writer is in Singapore at the invitation of The International Series).

Bond with Indians makes life easier for lone Pakistan golfer on Asian Tour

S. Shrivathsan
SINGAPORE

Professional golf can be a lonely exercise, especially if you are the sole participant from your country on a tour. Ahmad Baig, the only Pakistan golfer on the current Asian Tour, does experience that feeling of loneliness at times, particularly when his Indian and Thai on-field rivals form their own groups to unwind.

But sport, being a great unifier, has brought the 27-year-old closer to the Indian 'gang'.

"I wish there were other players from Pakistan on the tour. There are obviously a lot of players from India and Thailand; we see 10 to 15 players every week.

"So, I have developed a good rapport with the Indians over time," said Baig, positioned tied-5th with six-under 207 at the end of the Singapore Open third round here on Saturday.

Baig. ASIAN TOUR

"I am good friends with many Indian players – Gaganjeet Bhullar, S.S.P. Chawrasia, Pukhraj Singh Gill, Yuvraj Singh, Karandeep Kochhar and Ajeetesh Sandhu.

"I meet them every week when we play together, and they are very friendly. Bhullar and Chawrasia offer guidance. Chawrasia has asked me to go to Europe and play there; he feels that it would suit my game," added Baig, after having risen to T5 with four-under 67 in the penultimate round.

According to Baig, many Pakistan golfers struggle to make the grade due to the "expensive" nature of the sport and some external factors.

"Nobody comes here (tries to get to the Asian Tour) because it is expensive for those from Pakistan. There are limited flights, and the stay costs a lot.

"If you have a good sponsor, you can [survive]. We are now seeing many kids pick up golf.

"We will help them as much as we can," said Baig, who is currently based in Indonesia to guarantee seamless travel for tournaments.

Who knows, a title-winning show from Baig may spark a revolution back home.

INBRIEF

Vanshika and Chirag win 10m air pistol mixed team gold

Vanshika Chaudhary and Chirag Sharma won the 10m air pistol mixed team event at the ISSF Junior World Cup here on Saturday. The duo shot 484.3 to shrug off the challenge of Aliaksandra Piatrova and Mikita Daubash (467.6) representing the Individual Neutral Athletes (AIN). The second Indian pair of Mohini Singh and Himanshu Rana tallied 407.4 to clinch bronze.

Abhay loses to former World No. 1 Gawad

India's Abhay Singh went down to former World No. 1 Karim Gawad of Egypt in the quarterfinals of the Grasshopper Cup, a PSA Gold event, in Zurich. World No. 24 Abhay lost 10-12, 9-11.

ROUND-UP

On top: Guru HC, winner of the KSHA A-division hockey championship. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Guru HC triumphs

Guru HC blanked Blue Star HC 3-0 in the final of the KSHA A-division hockey championship on Saturday. The third place went to Bombers HC, and the team's Md. Nayeem was adjudged the best player of the tournament

The results: Final: Guru 3 (T. Venkatesh 14, S. Sandeep 26, Aravind 49) bt Blue Star 0; **Third-place match:** Bombers 1 (Manoj 17) bt Bangalore United 1 (Harsha 38) [4-3 on penalties].

It's Rudra vs. Harshad

Rudra Shahi will meet Harshad Shadish in the men's singles finals at the Yonex-Sunrise Vivek Karan Memorial State-ranking badminton tournament. The women's final will be between Hithaishree L. Rajaiah and Tanya Hemanth.

The results (semifinals):
Men: Rudra Shahi bt Pravararchith Rudrakshala Matam 21-13, 21-16; Harshad Shadish bt K.K. Abhishek 9-21, 21-9, 21-16.
Women: Hithaishree L. Rajaiah bt Mahitha Naidu Surisetty 21-12, 21-13; Tanya Hemanth bt H.N. Sameeksha 21-19, 21-11.
Boys: Kaushik Reddy Veeram Reddy bt Dhyan Santosh 17-21, 21-8, 21-12; Harshad Shadish bt Sai Pushkar 21-15, 21-9.
Girls: Disha Santosh bt Nidhi Atmaram 21-12, 19-21, 21-19; Hithaishree bt Aashi Das 21-12, 21-18.

MCHS posts win

MCHS defeated Bangalore Sporting 50-45 in a boys' match at the State sub-junior basketball championship on Saturday. In a girls' category game, Beagles BC thrashed MNK Rao 57-14.

Bengaluru and Mumbai City fail to break the deadlock

The one point does little to bolster BFC's title hopes; with three matches to go, the Blues trail leader and Kolkata giant Mohun Bagan by four points while the Islanders are behind by one

ISL

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Wasteful: BFC and MCFC spilt chances aplenty. K. MURALI KUMAR

There were chances galore, but Bengaluru FC and Mumbai City FC lacked the finishing touch. The goalless draw in a crucial Indian Super League match at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium here on Saturday left both sides disappointed.

The 14,500-odd spectators must have expected more from BFC in this last home match. The one point did little to bolster BFC's title hopes. With three matches to go, the Blues trail leader Mohun Bagan Super Giant by four points, while Mumbai City is behind by one.

BFC came together well to bombard the visitor's box in the second half. Ashique Kuruniyan, given a free run on the flank, made an excellent solo run, but his cross could not find the advancing Sunil Chhetri. Kuruniyan was a threat right through the match, but his final ball was not up to standard.

Substitute V. Soham nearly made immediate impact, unleashing a shot from close range. In the dying minutes, the home team advanced deep into Mumbai City territory, but once again, the defence could not be breached.

MCFC thrived on counter-attack. Akash Mishra came close in the first half, testing BFC goalkeeper Gurpreet Sandhu with a shot on target.

Lallianzuala Chhangte wasted the best chance of the game. Chhangte fluffed a one-on-one with Sandhu, dragging the ball too wide and leaving himself with an acute angle to goal. The 28-year-old showed jittery nerves once again when he made a fine run but hesitated to pull the trigger and shoot. In the 82nd minute, a poor clearance landed kindly to Vikram Singh, who blasted it over the bar.

The results: BFC 0 drew with MCFC 0.
At Jamshedpur: JFC 4 (Sanan 7, 58, Eric 27, Nikola 78) bt CFC 1 (Prakadeswaran 69).

daCunha/AB/1097

Only the summer heat can slow down runners

TCS WORLD 10K

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

A sea of runners, hardened professional and enthusiastic amateurs, will take over the central areas of Bengaluru in the early Sunday hours. From the flag off on Cubbon Road, the 36,000-odd participants will traverse through the neighbourhood with varied goals. For the elite men and women, the total prize pool of $2,10,000 is of great incentive.

The Indian men's winner will take home ₹3,00,000, while the Indian women's winner will receive ₹2,75,000.

A bonus of ₹1,00,000 is on offer for anyone who breaks the event records.

A world-class field, and a smooth route with very few tricky U-turns, puts the course record under threat. It is only the summer heat that could slow down the runners.

Abhishek Pal, who clocked 29:12 last year to set the Indian men's event record, will look to build on that performance. "This race is a great way to assess where I stand at the start of the season. It tells you about your speed, endurance and overall condition, and helps shape the rest of the year," he said.

A fair few recognisable faces – including Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Lok Sabha members Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar and Tejasvi Surya – will lace up their running shoes to join the amateurs.

Shahnavaz shades Sreeshankar's record

ATHLETICS

Sports Bureau

Shahnavaz Khan. X@AFIINDIA

Uttar Pradesh's M. Shahnavaz Khan bettered M. Sreeshankar's U-20 long jump record from 2018 by leaping to a distance of 8.23m in the 24th under-20 Federation athletics competition in Tumakuru on Saturday. It was an improvement on Sreeshankar's mark by 3cm.

Elsewhere, there were new records set in the men's 400m by Kerala's Mohammed Ashfaq, in men's 5000m by Uttar Pradesh's Nitin Gupta and in women's 5000m by MP's Ranjana Yadav.

The results (winners only):
Men: 110m hurdles: K. Kiran (Ker), 13.75s; **400m:** Mohammed Ashfaq (Ker), 46.05s (NR; OR: Amoj Jacob, 46.26s, 2017); **1500m:** Vansh Kumar Sharawa (UP), 3:52.29; **Long jump:** Shahnavaz Khan (UP), 8.23m (NR; OR: M. Sreeshankar, 8.20m, 2018); **Shot put:** A. Sai Kiran (NCOE, Patiala), 18.65m; **Pole vault:** S. Kavinraja (TN), 5.12m; **5000m:** Nitin Gupta (UP), 18:54.37 (NR; OR: Nitin Gupta, 19:24.48s, 2025); **Hammer throw:** Ashuvendra Pratap Singh (UP), 67.87m; **Decathlon:** Upkar (Raj), 7039 points.
Women: 100m hurdles: Yamini Karthikeyan (TN), 13.79s; **400m:** Neeru Pathak (NCOE, TVM), 54.31s; **1500m:** Radha Yadav (MP), 4:32.64s; **Long jump:** Munmun Chetia (Asm), 6.03m; **Shot put:** V.S. Anupriya (Ker), 14.35m; **5000m:** Ranjana Yadav (MP), 23:22.12s (NR; OR: Manisha, 23:43.58, 2025).

राजस्थान सरकार
कौशल, नियोजन एवं उद्यमिता विभाग,
प्राविधिक शिक्षा निदेशालय, राजस्थान, जोधपुर
W-6, गौरव-पथ, जोधपुर, Ph.: 0291-2432290, FAX- 0291-2632339
E-mail- scheme.dot@rajasthan.gov.in
No.: DTE/T-4(SCHEME)/PMPES/4324(3)/2026/61020 दिनांक: 22.04.2026

Corrigendum-V

ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या 01/2025-26 में निम्नानुसार संशोधन किये जा रहे हैं:—

S. No.	UBN No.	Corrigendum
01	UBN No. TET2526SLOB00140 TET2526SLOB00141 TET2526SLOB00142 TET2526SLOB00143 TET2526SLOB00144 TET2526SLOB00145 TET2526SLOB00146 TET2526SLOB00147	RFP में निम्नानुसार आवश्यक संशोधन किये जा रहे हैं- 1. Pre-Bid Conference - 01.05.2026 2. Authority response to queries latest by 06.05.2026 3. Authority's additional response, if any 06.05.2026 4. Bid due date - 27.05.2026 5. Opening of Technical Bids - 27.05.2026 6. Announcement of qualifies Bidders - 11.06.2026 7. Opening of Financial Bid - 18.06.2026 8. Letter of Award (LOA) - Within 30 days of opening of Financial Bid. 9. Validity of Bids - 120 days of Bid Due Date. 10. Signing of License Agreement- within 30 days of award of LOA

अन्य नियम एवं शर्तें पूर्ववत् रहेंगी।
DIPR/C/7372/2026
निदेशक (प्रशिक्षण)

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL EDUCATION
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER, NEW PUBLIC OFFICES, NRUPATUNGA ROAD, BANGALORE-560 001, Mobile : 9448999424
WEBSITE : (http://www.schooleducation.kar.nic.in)
No:DPI-CPI0PLN1/IVA-TENDER/2026-27 Date:24/04/2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

Office of the Commissioner, Department of School Education, Bengaluru invites short term tender for identification of Independent Verification Agency for developing 500 KPS in coordination with Asian Development Bank.

1	RFP Reference No.	**DPI/2026-27/SE0441**
2	Date of Commencement of Download of RFP Document from Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in	**24/04/2026 onwards**
3	Last Date and Time for uploading Online Queries in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal	**30/04/2026 5:30 PM**
4	Date and time of Pre-bid Meeting	**30/04/2026 11:00 AM** at the following venue: Office of Commissioner, School Education, First floor, New public office Building, Nrupatunga road, K R Circle, Bengaluru
5	Last Date and Time for uploading of RFP in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal	**11/05/2026 5:00 PM**
6	Date and Time of Online Opening of RFP Applications	**12/05/2026 5:10 PM**
7	Place of Opening of RFP Applications	**Online at Karnataka Public Procurement Portal**
8	Date and time of presentation for methodology on the project	**15/05/2026 12:00 PM**
9	Address for Communication	Office of the Commissioner, School Education, First floor, New public office Building, Nrupatunga Road, K R Circle, Bengaluru-560001 Email: ddpiplanning@gmail.com Contact:080-22270072, 9448999424

Note: 1) Completed tenders shall be uploaded through e-tendering system by the Tenderers using their User ID on or before the last date & time stipulated. **2)** In the event of the specified date of opening of Technical Bid (First Cover) being declared a holiday for the Purchaser, the Technical Bid will be opened on the next working day. **3)** Only Online Queries through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal will be accepted. Queries sent through letters, emails or any other mode will not be entertained.

DIPR/CP/JA/361/2026-27
Sd/-
DDPI(PLANNING)

Sathiyan and Manika among key retentions

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Leading Indians Manav Thakkar, Manush Shah and Diya Chitale headline the player pool for Ultimate Table Tennis Season 7, while stalwarts G. Sathiyan and Manika Batra were retained by their respective franchises ahead of next week's auction.

LIVE TELECAST

Athletics: Bengaluru 10k Marathon, Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 6 a.m.
Golf: China Open, Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 10 a.m.
IPL: Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 3.30 & 7.30 p.m.
Serie A: DAZN, 4, 6.30, 9.30 p.m. & 12.15 a.m. (Monday)
ISL: Sony Sports Ten 2 & FanCode, 5 & 7.30 p.m.
LaLiga: FanCode, 5.30, 7.45, 10 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Monday)
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 7 & 9 p.m.

THE HINDU GROUP

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